Mount Forest. Ont.
12 Feb. 93

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

I have a considerable number of bird skins from the North West Coast to dispose of, and I would esteem it a great favour if you could send me the addresses of any <u>reliable</u> dealers whom you may be acquainted with, who might want to buy skins of such birds as Black merlin, Prairie & Peregrine Falcons, Black swift, Vaux's do, Pygmy, Dusky Horned, & Puget Sd. Owls Etc.

I am shortly about to return to B.C. so would be able to replace these birds in my collection

Faithfully yrs
Allan C. Brooks
P.O Box 57
Mt Forest
Ontario.

Allen C. Brooks

Feby 12 - 1893.

Allan Brooks
March 2 - 1893.

Mount Forest
2d March 93

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir -

I duly received your answer to my letter and am much indebted to you for your promptness -

I would much prefer dealing with a private collector like yourself, so will send a box to you by express in a few days, as to the price you will be the best judge of that as I never sold skins heretofore while you must have bought thousands. I think you will be satisfied with the quality of the skins, I sent you some before, you will probably remember them, an adult Black Merlin was among them, the ones I will send will be just as good or better than these and preserved with a stronger preservative than I then used; any birds however that you do not think to be quite up to the mark can be priced accordingly, I leave this part of the business entirely to you as I know you will give me whatever they are worth.

If any other address but Cambridge, Mass. is required on the box, I would be much obliged if you could let me know at once, as I will not be able to ~~pack~~ send up the birds till next week.

Yours very truly
Allan Brooks

P. S. Any birds that you or your friend may not want, may be sent to the dealer whom you think to be most reliable.

Allan Brooks.

Mount Forest. March. 10-1893.

10 March '93

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

I have packed up a box of about 150 skins, and will send it off by express at the same time as I mail this letter.

I hope they will reach you in good condition and that the make up of the skins will satisfy you.

I have marked the price plainly on each label, and I think you will admit that they are low enough, the price being on an average about half of the price quoted in the different lists I have come across; however as I said before, I am utterly inexperienced in this sort of thing and if you think they are too high by all means reduce them as I only want what the birds are worth.

As you say, the dealers lists are no criterion. I have tried to get birds at their prices, which I made sure they would have, but they had not one in ten of the species I asked for, and often sent me the wrong species after all, such as Falco columbarius for F. richardsoni.

All the birds sent are British Columbian with the exception of a dozen Japanese skins which I put in on a venture, also a skin of a Pine Grosbeak from this locality which struck me as interesting as showing the partial assumption in the female of the plumage of the male.

There are I think 3 new subspecies among the birds sent - The first is the Kestrel of B.C. this seems to differ constantly from *Sparverius* in the greater scarcity of spots on both surfaces and the larger unform patch on the crown, the whole bird seems more unform in fact - it is a permanent resident in Southern B.C.

The next is the Redwinged Blackbird also a resident, which has a longer and more attenuated bill, more unform & richer colouring in the ♀ and young ♂, and a totally different note, more like the "chac" of a Crow Blackbird.

The last is a *Passerculus*, which seems intermediate between *sandwichensis* & *alaudinus*, having the size of the former & bill of the latter, it is more arboreal in habit than either however and breeds at high elevation in the Cascades most of them going North. Let me know what you think of these birds, I send 3 Kestrels, (the male is the only one I have I have seen them even less spotted than this one) 5 Blackbirds, & 5 Savanna Finches 3 adults in Spring plumage, one in Fall & a young bird. I also send some Crossbills they seem to me smaller than Eastern ones & have smaller bills & a different note.

Among the Black Merlins is a bird in rather bleached plumage but which I take to be typical *Suckleyi* by its wing markings.

The only birds I have not priced are the Black Swifts. They are put at $3 to $4.50 in the lists I have; but this is manifestly to much, if this is really their value I dont think I am asking to much at $1.50 for males & 1.00 for females, but will take the latter price all round if no more can be got, although there are a lot of them (13) in the box they are not an easy bird to get, tho'yh I was in the centre of their abundance, they generally fly very high, out of shot, only descending in lowering weather; what ought their eggs to be worth?

I send a grebe which puzzles me, I have seen 5 or 6 & they all agree in having a peculiarly striped head & a less decurved bill than P. holboelli.

Another bird which I would like to have identified is a small Shorelark darker and not so brightly colored as typical alpestris, I send a ♀.

I send a couple of Dusky Horned Owls & though you may not want them I would like your opinion of them, they seem almost uniform enough for the common species, it is a bird that varies very much some being extremely dark & others almost light enough for subarctica which occurs in the same locality. There are also four birds which I have not

seen recorded from Br. Columbia before viz- Lanius excubitoroides, Setophaga ruticilla, Calcarius maccowni, & the Catbird, the last is a summer resident in the Chilliwack valley the others are extremely rare straggles.

Perhaps you would like to know the exact locality where the bulk of the birds are from, Chilliwack valley is ~~the~~ on the west side of the Cascade Mts close to the Boundary line & about 50 miles from the coast, it is generally spelt "Chilliwekyuk" on maps - Sumas is the lower end of the valley adjoining the U. S. Boundary.

When you have taken what birds you want send the rest of them to ~~[illegible]~~ the dealer ~~you would~~ whom ~~you~~ may think would be likely to want them.

Sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

P. S. Let me know if you want any more specimens of any particular species.

40.79
7
47.79
11.75
59.54

45.59
59.54
105.13

7.80

92

Mount Forest
2d April 93

William Brewster Esq
Dear Sir.

By the same mail as this I send 1 Redwinged Blackbird and 5 Passerculi, being all the specimens of their respective forms that I have left, this being the case I would like to have them returned when you are through with them, there is no hurry however, keep them for six months if you like; the two immature Savana finches are not worth returning, these you may keep if they are of any value to you. I am sorry I have not more of these birds, but all my Icterine birds were burnt up three years ago in a fire, and I sent nearly all my Passerculi about the same time to Dr Hart Merriam; including three distinct forms as well as I remember, certainly three of them had the rufous jugulum as you describe; probably you could get the whole series from him for examination.

I have no more Shrikes from B.C. I noticed when I shot these that they seemed a more robust bird than my Eastern shrikes, but as they were migrants from the North I thought that had there been any specific or subspecific difference it would have

been noticed in the specimens from Alaska collected by Turner and others.

The Blackbirds on the other hand are permanent residents, being found throughout the coldest weather.

The large white beaked form of Savanna finch is the form common on Vancouver's Id. where true alaudinus is a rare visitant; I also shot it on the summit of the Selkirks at Glacier House in heavily timbered country. There is no doubt about the sex of the heavy billed & I now send.

If you think the Black Swifts are only worth a dollar, it is probably all they are worth so put this price on the remainder.

After your friends have taken all the skins they want let the remainder go to Mr. Abbot Frazer, with 30% reduction if he will take them all.

Before I close I must thank you for all the trouble you have taken & the fair way you have dealt with me.

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

P.S. By all means announce the exhaustive records for me. Yellow headed Blackbird is another bird I have taken a single specimen of, this was doubtfully included in Prof. Brooms list of Van. Id. birds in the "Ibis" long ago.

(over)

Allen Brooks

April 2 - 1893.

Do you know where I could get one or two typical Acanthis rostrata? I would very much like to know of anybody who had them for sale or exchange, that is, undoubted specimens. I have already have, had a couple sent to me which are very different birds from the large stout billed birds that were sent to us by the Smithsonian seven or eight years ago.

Mount Forest Ont
27 Apr '93

William Brewster Esq
Dear Sir -
Your last letter to hand: with regard to the skins you do not want I would like them sold for whatever they will fetch - If Abbot Frazar will not take them at the 30% reduction I would like to have them offered to F. B Webster of Hyde Park - Sending them back to me would entail my paying 35% duty on them, their value to be fixed by Custom authorities, who have no notion of their real value and often put fabulous prices on them, a friend of mine recently had $10 fixed as the price of an entomological net & pliers which did not cost over $3.

I and my Father would very much like to see a few typical Acanthis rostrata and if you will be so kind as to send one or two skins with the birds you return to me (Passerculi), they will be promptly returned as soon as I have made some sketches of them.

Do not put yourself to much trouble about the remaining skins

Very truly yours
Allan Brooks

(over)

Allan Brooks.

April 27-1893

I curious fact which may be worth recording is the time of year I took my specimens of Plec. macconni - My first an adult male in full plumage was shot on the 2d June '87 ; about the same time several years afterwards I took the 2 females on the very same spot ; I passed this place every day and never saw any others either there or anywhere else in B. C.

I would be very glad if you will inform me as early as possible of the results of your examinations of the Savana Sparrows & Blackbirds as I want the information for Prof. Macoun of Ottawa who is about to publish a list of Canadian birds -

Mount Forest
18 May 93

William Brewster Esq.
Dear Sir -

I recently received a letter from Mr Batchelder, headed Cambridge but postmarked Boston, and I am in doubt how to address my reply, so have enclosed it in this; would you be so kind as to forward it to him - I heard in Victoria from Mr Maynard that he lived in Boston.

In looking over some Pine Grosbeaks I collected this winter it struck me there were two forms represented, one much larger (about ½ inch all round), of a more purplish color; with large dark centres to the feathers of breast & under tail covers, & a more strongly hooked bill - the small bird is very much lighter throughout - When you have time I wish you would look thro' your series, if you see no difference in any I will send you one of each; the small bird may belong to the brightly colored form from N. W. coast described by Mr Ridgway as flammea.

With many thanks for the trouble you are taking about my birds

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks.

Allan Brooks

May 18-1893

Allen Brooks.
Aug. 9-1893.

Arrd Aug 13
will take Mr
Hawks etc.

Mount Forest Ont
9 Aug 93

William Brewster Esq

Dear Sir.

I hope you will over-look the long delay in answering yours of 17 July.

I would like you to keep the Savanna Sparrows until you are well enough to attend to them, as I think you are best fitted to describe the new subspecies, I have sent skins to Smithsonian also a large series to Dr Merriam in which the bird with ochraceous jugulum was well represented, and yet seemed to have been overlooked, or else taken to be typical sandwich-ensis as I took it to be.

As to rest of the skins I don't suppose there are any worth bothering about except the Black Swifts, so keep them or give them away just as you like - If the Black Swifts can be sold let them go for whatever they will fetch, you have been troubled with them enough already.

There is one bird however that I would like to have back a small Bittern, (Ardetta) from Japan, this you could send back with the Sparrows etc when you are done with them

As soon as I am sure that I am going to B.C. ~~[illegible]~~ I will dispose of the rest of my collection of B.C. birds, of which I have kept the best skins, also such species as I knew I would find it hard to get unless I was on the ground myself; so that if there are any other birds that you want, I would be glad to let you have them, at a lower rate than the lot I sent you. I find I overlooked the large discounts in dealers lists for large lots when pricing my skins, and you must have had to pay too much for many specs. Black merlins, & Pygmy Owl for instance. I have 8 very perfect skins of each kind including an adult ♂ & ♀ of the former; also other good hawks Adult Eastern & Western Sparrowhawks, do Sharp shins & Coopers Hawks, a fine adult Falcon. gyrfalco, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine do &c. which I can get again in B.C., and will call as soon as I am sure of the date of my departure.

I hope when this reaches you that your health will have improved, do not be too premature in taxing it however, as Prof Macoun will not be putting his proofs into printers hands until next year. With many thanks for your kindness yrs sincerely

Allan Brooks.

Mount Forest
Ontario
24 Jan '94

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

It is a long time now since I have written to you, and as I am about to send in my notes to Prof. Macoun, I thought it would be as well to write you for information anent the Passerculi and Agelaii.

I would like to know if you have made, or decided to make new subspecies of these forms, & if you would let me know the names you intend to describe them under it would be sufficient, as Prof Macoun's list will not be published until next summer.

You need not return the specimens of the above birds that I sent you, as I will be going out to B. C next fall and can easily duplicate them.

I have not had any word from Mr Abbot Fraser as to whether he has taken any birds of the old lot or not.

Hoping this will find you in better health, and able to continue your ornithological works

I remain

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Allan Brooks.

Jany 24-1894.

Allan Brooks
Jany. 31st 1894 Mount Forest.
31 Jan.y 94

William Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir -

Yours of the 28th received & the contents carefully read; many thanks for the trouble you have taken about these birds.

In regard to P. alaudinus, it breeds abundantly about Chilliwack & a few occasionally stay all winter, and the adults of both sexes have a strongly yellow supercilium, in the breeding season, & I believe the fully adult male is even yellower in the fall after moulting.

P. alaudinus is not at all to be confused with either the large grey form (which I took, wrongly to be anthinus) nor the large buffy form (which I took to be sandwichensis); as it is paired & breeding when these two forms arrive & pass through the valley; when I used to be collecting the two large forms I never shot an alaudinus by mistake they were always singing while the others were busy feeding either singly or in flocks; the buffy form nearly always singly in the marshes, & the large pale form associated with Zonotrichia in the higher ground flying up into the brush trees when disturbed & often feeding among the branches. The very small size & very grey coloration ~~rendered~~ made the identification of alaudinus very easy.

I never had any positive proof of the breeding of either of the large forms in the valley. I have only Bairds description of sandwichensis (Baird, Cassin, & Lawrence) & as he laid stress on the larger bill, I took the buffy form for it, as it had a larger bill than the gray form, the ♀ of this latter often having quite a small bill. I cannot reconcile Bairds description of Anthinus with the large buffy form as he says "the smallest of its group": although the description is accurate enough. In breeding alaudinus the yellow is confined to the supercilium and is not suffused over the entire crown & cheeks, but very sharply defined.

In regard to the birds I intended them as a gift, but as you are so kind as to offer an equivalent, I will take advantage of it. I very much want (for my Father) a typical Acanthis rostrata never mind how poor a skin it would be more than an equivalent for the skins I sent.

Other desiderata are Ac. holboelli, Phalaropus tricolor, Aeg. vivosa adult, Ipswich Sparrow, Martinique Gallinule, Yellow Rail, Avocet, Lophophanes wolweberi, Short billed Marsh wren, Chuck will widow, & Plectrophanes picta any one of which will more than satisfy me

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks

(over)

P. S. The Ardetta is the only Japanese bird I would like to have returned.

I shot a large Passerculus high up in the Selkirks at Rogers Pass, among the Spruce trees early in May, I think it was the large pale form. I sent it along with a lot of others to Dr. Merriam about four years ago.

Sketch in S. pinus note pocket W.B.

Mount Forest
Ontario.
8 Aug 94

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

I intend starting for B.C. in about two months time and as I do not want to take out my whole collection of B.C. birds, I would very much like to cut them down, I mentioned some of the species before, which you said you would take if price was suitable, if agreeable to you I would send a list with prices & you could mark what you would take if the skins were up to the marks. I would prefer however to send a box like last time & you could take what you wanted & return the rest.

I enclose a sketch of a Siskin which I have had for a long time, when shot I took it for an unusually bright S. pinus, but I have since compared it with S. spinus from Japan & I can find no difference so it might be a straggler from England: it was taken at Milton, Ontario. in October 86. I would like to know if you have ever seen a Pine finch so brightly colored or so free from streaks on lower surface, if so it will probably be the American bird: the feathers on upper surface are brighter at the bases quite green in fact.

I hope you are better after your trip to the West

Allan Brooks.

Indies, & able to bird work again.

Aug. 8-1894

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

A. G. Burks

Sept. 30-1894

Mount Forest
Ontario

30 Septr 94

William Brewster Esqre

Dear Sir -

I have packed up a box of birds and will send them off tomorrow when I post this letter. I enclose list of the entire lot with prices, & have also marked the price on each ticket.

I made the price as low as possible on almost every bird in hopes that you would take the collection in its entirety; the total arrived at is $110.25; but if you will take the lot will let you have it for $95 which I think is a low enough figure for 250 good skins being only 38 cents a skin on an average, large & small.

I hope you will agree to this, if not take what you want and let your friends (Mr. Batchelder &c) look over the residue.

I have put in nearly all my series of *Podiceps holboelli*, (one Eastern bird), as I had the idea once that the bird from Harrison River might be a new species on account of its peculiarly marked head the ∧ shaped mark on the crown was more noticable, when the bird was fresh killed.

I have also put in all my Western Barn Swallows, two of which are about the only poor skins sent, the note of this bird is quite different from the Eastern bird

I will send you a good series next summer.

I also send a poor skin of an Empidonax, from this region, for identification, the circumstances of its capture were these - When ~~hosting~~ one day I found a nest of an Empidonax with 3 eggs, exactly like but a trifle larger than the nests of E. pusillus I had taken in B.C. I naturally concluded it was the nest of E. traillii, which is a rare breeder in the neighborhood, although I had never seen one in this particular patch of brush (and it is a very conspicuous bird), after a great deal of waiting I managed to shoot the bird, which was very shy, it was within a foot or two of nest when shot, & there were no E. minimus ~~breeding~~ in the thicket at all, nevertheless the bird looks very like minimus or pusillus & not at all like traillii, the wing formula being the former's, can you tell me what it is? the eggs are well spotted & larger than those of pusillus.

I did not dose its feet with arsenic & the result was dermestes nibbled them when drying -

You will find many of the birds have the feet & bill covered with arsenic, this is the only sure way I find to make them insect proof, it will brush or wash off -

I leave for the west next Friday (Oct. 5) & my address for next year or so will be Chilliwack P.O. Br. Columbia, send reply to this there.

I hope your trip to the pine woods has set you up - Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks

P.S. I would very much like a list of such birds as you want from B.C. - if you like I would take one piece for all small birds & another for all large ones

1	Falco peregrinus	2.00
2	" c. cuckleyi @ (2.00)	4.00
1	" " " adult ♂	2.50
2	" Columbarius (50)	1.00
2	Pos hawks (adult) @ (2.00)	4.00
2	do (young) @ (1.00)	2.00
1	Circus hudsonius ad ♂	1.50
1	Arch. s. johannis	1.75
1	Accipiter cooperi ad ♂	1.00
3	do (young) @ (40c)	1.20
2	" fuscus ad @ (50)	1.00
2	" " young @ (35)	70
1	Bubo saturatus	1.50
1	do do	1.75
1	Scops a saturatus	1.00
1	do do	75
1	Nyctale acadica	85
3	Glaucidium grama (1.50)	4.50
2	Asio brachyotus (50)	1.00
4	Columba fasciata (35)	1.40
1	Zen. macrura	20
1	Tetrao fuliginosus ♂	1.75
2	do do ♀ (85)	1.70
1	Bonasa ♂	80
2	do ♀ (60)	1.20
1	do ♀	40
2	Corvus a hesperus (40)	80
1	" caurinus	50
1	Pin. s. desertícola ♀	50
1	Larus glaucescens ad	1.50
1	" smithsonianus ad	1.00
1	" ? " juv	65
1	" ? Californicus juv	65
1	" delawarensis ad	85
2	" " juv (35)	70
1	" brachyrhynchus ad	75
1	" " juv	65
1	" philadelphia	25
1	Uria californica	70
1	Cepphus columba	1.25
2	Br. marmoratus (1.00)	2.00
		$54.40
		30.40
		84.80

1	Podiceps occidentalis	1.00
1	" holbolli	1.00
1	" "	75
1	" "	65
1	" "	45
1	" auritus	35
1	" Californicus	35
1	Podilymbus podiceps	35
1	Colymbus pacificus	1.00
1	Harlequin duck ♂	1.50
1	" " ♀ juv	65
1	Anas carolinensis (var.)	40
1	" cyanoptera	1.50
1	Fulix collaris ?	1.00
1	Aix sponsa	1.00
1	Botaurus lentiginosus	1.00
1	Charadrius squatarola	40
1	" dominicanus	60
1	Aegialites vociferus	25
2	Totanus flavipes (20)	40
1	" melanoleucus (summer)	35
2	" " (fall) (25)	50
1	Tryngites rufescens	50
1	Lobipes hyperboreus	20
1	Tringa maculata	20
2	" bairdii (25)	50
2	" pacifica (20)	40
2	" minutilla (20)	40
3	Ex. occidentalis (20)	60
2	Mac. scolopaceus (summer)	1.25
3	" " fall (25)	75
1	Aphriza virgata	1.00
1	Porzana carolinensis	40
2	Colaptes c. saturator (25)	50
1	Sphyrapicus ruber	25
1	Picus harrisi	40
1	Picoides alascensis	70
2	Hyl. pileatus (50)	1.00
2	Chordeiles (30)	60
4	Cypseloides niger (50)	2.00
2	" " (35)	70
3	Chaetura vauxi (50)	1.50
3	Trochilus rufus (25)	75
1	" alexandri	35
		$30.40

Carried forward.

Carried fd. ——— $84.80

1 Tyrannus verticalis — 20
1 Contopus borealis — 30
2 " richardsoni (20) — 40
1 Empidonax pusillus — 20
1 " " — gratis.
1 " difficilis — 20
2 Pica hudsonica (25) — 50
1 Per. obscurus — ?35
2 Sturnella neglecta (25) — 50
1 " " (20) — 20
1 Scol. cyanocephalus — 25
2 Turdus m. propinquus (25) — 50
1 " " " — 15
2 Hesper. naevia (25) — 50
1 Turdus ustulatus — 20
2 Myadestes townsendi (35) — 70
5 Sialia mexicana (20) — 1.00
4 Habia melanocephala (25) — 1.00
3 Passerina amoena (15) — 45
1 Hesper. vespertina — 30
3 Loxia @ (25) — 75
2 Linota linaria (15) — 30
1 Spinus pinus (15) — 15
2 Carpodacus californicus (15) — 30
2 Zonotrichia coronata (25) — 50
3 " intermedia — 55
2 Pocaetes g. confinis (15) — 30
1 Amodramus alaudinus — 15
1 " jur — 15
1 Melospiza striata — 35
1 " guttata — 25
1 Passerella unalaschensis — 25
1 Spizella m. ochracea — 15
1 " s arizonae — 15
1 Junco oregonus — 15
1 " hymalis — 15
3 Pipilo oregonus (15) — 45
6 Otocoris leucolaema — 1.20
5 " stugata — 1.05
3 Plectrophanes lapponica — 45

$100.45

Carried forward ——— 100.45

4 Anthus ludovicianus — 50
1 Cinclus mexicanus — 25
1 Gal. carolinensis — 20
1 Cis paludicola — 25
1 Thry. b. spilurus — 20
1 Troq. ae. parkmani — 25
2 Ano. pacifica — 40
2 Certhia (20) — 40
1 Sitta canadensis — 25
1 Regulus s. olivaceus — 15
2 Ampelis garrula (60) — 1.20
2 Vireo olivaceus (10 & 15) — 25
2 " g. swainsoni (15) — 30
1 " cassini — 30
3 Barn swallows — 35
1 Cliff do — 25
2 White bellied do (15) — 30
3 Violet green do — 85
2 Rough wing^d do (15) — 30
1 Bank do — 15
1 Parus occidentalis — 25
3 Geo. t. occidentalis (20) — 60
2 " magillivrayi — 50
1 Dend. audoboni — 20
2 " townsendi — 60
1 " astiva ♀ — 10
1 " nigrescens ♀ — 10
2 My. p. pilliolata — 35

Total. $110.25

P.S. The box should probably go by freight as it is a good size, freight packages are so roughly handled however, that I would sooner pay the difference & send it by Express, so please deduct half of the Express charges from the money you send me.

There are some birds that I was going to put in but did not, Gyrfalcon, & Prairie falcon for instance, I had only one skin of each left in my collection, so thought I had better keep them & get you fresh ones, which I am sure to do this Fall at Sumas Lake. B.C. The Gyrfalcon found there is the Alaskan form of *rusticolus* I think.

On second thoughts I have come A.C.B.
to the conclusion that I would take $90 for the entire lot of birds sooner than lose a part of them as in the last lot. I hope you will agree to this.

Chilliwhack B.C.
10 November 94

William Brewster Esq.
Dear Sir.

I have had no word re. the box of birds I sent to you from Mr. Forbes & hope they have not gone astray, or that your illness prevents your looking over them.

I have not done much collecting here yet the best birds I have seen so far are a couple of Falcons (F. mexicana, & F. rusticola) which are all the time chasing each other on the shores of a large lake near here (Sumas Lake) the former seems to have its own way pretty well with its larger relative, although it is only a small ♂ while the Gyrfalcon is a fine adult ♀, which seems to prefer Hutchins' Geese to any other quarry. I hope to be able to send both to you before long.

Would you care for any of the Geese? I can send you a good series of the smaller geese, Hutchinsii minima etc. Let me know what birds you want most from here.

Address all letters to me Chilliwack P.O. B.C. for next 12 months or so. Hoping to hear from you soon

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks.

Allan Brooks.
Nov. 10-1894.

Chilliwack B.C.
10 Decr. 94

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

Your letter and accompanying order duly to hand, for which many thanks.

As to the rest of the birds they do not amount to much I should think, & as I have got full value for the lot taken en bloc, will not bother you about them.

I can get you Branta canadensis, & hutchinsi fairly easily minima is much scarcer but I have obtained it & can do so again, occidentalis I have only seen once with certainty when I watched with a binocular a flock feeding along side of a flock of canadensis both species keeping seper-ate both in feeding & on the wing. Minima seems to me to be a very distinct species it has a different voice & can be distinguished from hutchinsi when on the wing by their longer wings & short necks & quicker flight, they have also a very peculiar brackish smell, I am pretty sure it is an more maritime species than the others.

I have not got any falcons yet but hope to do so before long. I have only one F. rusticola from Samas (an ad ♀) or I would have sent it to you, I expect to get one or two this winter with certainty, they are very wary however.

I sent a small Flycatcher from Mr Forest that I wanted to have identified, I sent full particulars in the letter accompanying the box, which you do not seem to have got.

I shot the bird off the nest with a large spot[illegible], like

Brooks–Allan
Dec. 10th, 1894

those of Emp. pusillus but larger, a regular Empidonax nest & situation, I was sure at the time that it was the nest of E. traillii, but the bird is not this species, there were no other flycatchers of any species in the vicinity, though I saw & heard a regular E. traillii close by shortly afterwards. Can it be a case of E. traillii mating with E. minimus? the bird seems to resemble this species more than pusillus, but is not traillii at all. I would very much like to have your opinion when you have leisure; the eggs were well spotted & hardly distinguishable from those of E. pusillus in my collection save in their slightly larger size.

I expect to get some good owls this winter, Great Gray Owl Syrnium occidentale, Richardson's Owl &c. I shot a fine Hawk Owl a few weeks ago. Redpolls, Crossbills, Grosbeaks &c seem much more numerous than usual this winter.

When possible I would like to have a list of your desiderata, or perhaps a list of what you did not want would work better.

If there is anyone that would give $5 for the remainder of the birds, you could let them have them, but dont go to any trouble on any account.

With many thanks

Yours

Allan Brooks

Chilliwack B. C.
20 Decr. 94

William Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of Decr. 10 just to hand, and its contents carefully read.

When I offered you the birds for $90. I did it with the expectation of receiving the money on my arrival in B. C. when I wanted it more than I did a few weeks later when I was getting other money in. If I had known that I would not have received it for some time I would hardly have made a $20 reduction. However on looking over the list and the prices, I see that I put the prices rather higher than I ought to have done, in so large a lot, so I will either credit you with the $7 towards your next purchase, send you the amt. in a small lot of birds that I know you would want, or send you the cash direct. Let me know which you would prefer.

I have a few hawks on hand now, also some auks, but the Gulls won't be fit to shoot for 2 months at least as they have been gorging for some time past on rotten Salmon, which gives them a fearful stench which does not go away when the bird is skinned.

There are some Waxwings (garrula) around also many Redpolls (linaria) would you want any of either.

I have hardly any sketches by me, I send you all I have at present, which do not amount to much

Brooks - Allan -
Dec. 20. 1894.

The sketch of the Wood ducks was done more to please those who might like a showy picture, better than an ornithological drawing correctly made.
The drawing book with the hawks, is a practice book in which I drew some hawks at odd times from memory, and afterwards roughly colored them, in no case having a skin to color from.
If you care for any more after seeing these I will be glad to send some as soon as I get time to get my drawing materials out.

I am going up into the Cascades in a week or so when I will have a chance to see how far the heavy snow drives down the hardy mountain birds which never come down to the Valley.

Faithfully yours
Allan Brooks

Brooks – Allan
Feb. 16th, 1895

Chilliwack B.C.
16 Feb 95.

William Brewster, Esq.
Dear Sir.

I recieved your letter and the skin of Emp. trailli a few days ago. I did not want the skin returned but it will come in useful to determine trailli if I get it here. The reason I thought the bird was not trailli was that I could not ~~reconcile it~~ make it agree with the description of that bird in Baird, Cassin, & Lawrence. As well as I remember the wing formula was different, certainly it was distinct from a ♂ bird I shot at Mt Forest which was very much grayer, more of an olive cast on back & not so brown, the wing bands grayer & the wing formula different, this was not a worn bird but in perfect feather shot some time before the nest sent to you, it seemed to me to fit the description of trailli to a nicety, but it must have been something else, I wish I could send it to you but it is with the rest of my collection back at Mt Forest; it had not a strong yellow tinge on lower surface, what could it be?

I am much flattered by your criticism of my drawings. You can have the whole lot for nothing, if I did not say as much in my letter, it was because I thought it unnecessary as none of them are worth anything, all being very coarsely executed.

If I thought I could make it pay, I would ~~very~~ do my best and see if I could turn out some drawings that would be somewhere near a first rate standard, unfortunately I have never had any lessons in water-color, or landscape sketching, and backgrounds &c come very hard to me; as far as the birds themselves go I have had exceptional opportunities to study them both in their wild state & as depicted by Lodd & Keulemans in Dresser's "Birds of Europe", "Ibis" &c. I have given ducks & other wildfowl especial attention watching them for hours through a powerful binocular at close quarters

and making sketches of them as soon as I reached home or camp, when their attitudes were fresh in my memory. If you knew of any shooting Club that would care to have a series of, say, a dozen sketches representing the principal species of game ducks I would be very glad to furnish them with a sample drawing. I dont think I could make a drawing the size of the wood ducks I sent, for less than $3, but would knock a lot off if any of them did not satisfy me. Any drawing you might want for publishing I will be glad to make gratis, if you want any species you may describe, figured, I think I can make a satisfactory drawing which could be reproduced by any careful copyist. I could make 2 if you wanted them, one uncolored for the lithographer & the other colored. Of course for this sort of work I would have to have a special kind of paper, which I cannot get here, paper similar to that used in the plates of Dresser's work is what I want, could you tell me if it is obtainable in Boston?

I am sending you a couple of rough sketches, these are both done on too rough a paper to give any chance for careful drawing of the scutellation of the feet &c. The owl though it looks odd is all right, as they habitually jerk their tails up or hold them at an angle to their body; of course I do not want anything for either of them.

I have not got many good birds this winter, the only facts worth recording are that Myadestes townsendi is a winter resident here, seen in the hardest weather feeding on Crabapples, Cranberries, &c, and that I shot 2 & saw 3 specimens of Zonotrichia harrisi here this winter ~~about Christmas~~ on the 9th of January; I would be glad if you would record this last, as the Victoria occurrance was thought to be exceptional while this would go to prove that it was a regular visitant, I expect to find it common in some part of the interior. My Father has sent me careful sketches & descriptions of the 2 Falco richardsoni you so kindly lent him & I will now be able to identify when captured

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Chilliwack B.C.
12 March 95

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

Your last letter received and was read with much interest.

I am rather surprised that you think my gray Empidonax is pusillus, but I think you must be right, in this case it is traillii & not pusillus that is found here, my gray Mt. Forest bird had a very small bill much smaller than traillii; & I have seen others exactly like it. I would very much like to see a typical pusillus; if you could lend me one I would return it by return mail. I would send you the above skin but my collection is all back East.

I will be glad to do any bird work you may want & will not object to pay if you insist on it, but I hardly think I have had enough experience yet to warrant it. I would like you to ask the dealers you name, what sort of paper they would recommend for fine drawing which has to be colored over, they would probably have a better idea what is used than I would.

I shot a woodpecker last week that seems to me to be identical with the Eastern P. villosus leucomela, it is not the common species here (harrisi) which is always more or less brownish on lower surface & has unspotted tertiaries, I send you sketch of it, the red nuchal band is not confluent but seperated on nape by a black stripe.

Do you care for any swans? I shot an adult ♂ buccinator the other day & can get more, I did not skin him as it is a big job & I did not know whether it would be wanted. I also got an adult Goshawk, the eastern bird with yellow iris. I would like to make up a series of Crows to see if Rhoads is really right in uniting caurinus with hesperus. would you care for such a series at 40c a skin or know of any person who would?

We have been having beautiful weather but no birds.

Very truly yours
Allan Brooks.

(over)

P.S. The lower surface of widpki is snowy white.

P.S. As to the price I asked for the duck picture ($3) I put it as low as possible, in fact lower than would really pay me, so as to get a trial order. If you think I could get $4 per picture I would raise it to that. They would be more carefully finished than the Wood ducks but same size. I have just finished one of Green Wing teal which satisfies me a good deal more than the Wood ducks.

Brooks-Allen
March 12th 1895

Chilliwack B. C.
23 April 95

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir.

I ought to have thanked you long before for the drawing paper, two of the kinds sent are just about what I want, and ought to give good results.

I am also much indebted to you for the loan of the Empidonax skin, I returned it in a box of mammal skins to Mr Miller. I am very much interested with it & have made careful sketches of bill, wing etc & taken measurements to enable me to identify here, (if I get it) trailli is the species that occurs here; the bird I have had sent to me as trailli is quite a different bird from the one you sent, it has a small narrow bill, & has an olive gray back, I have taken it at Mr Forster once where it breeds, it is not trailli, & if it is not pusillus, (& it is nothing like the pusillus you sent) what can it be? In coloration it is a good deal like Cont richardsoni, but it is an Empidonax, if you like I will get my Father to send you my Mr Forster skin, let me know in your next letter.

I have directing my energies latterly towards getting you the Geese you want, but they are hard birds to get, I find a shot gun of little use in the Spring, I get them with a ·38 cal Creedmoore match rifle, & it does not spoil them unless hit in head or neck; I do not see any B. minima now, in the fall there are a few but it is the rarest of the group here, I may get some yet, but will do so next Fall at all events, I can tell a good distance off as they have a proportionately longer wing & shorter neck than hudsonicus.

Do you want any Cranes I see both mexicana & canadensis at Sumas lake now, the former breeds here.

I will send you the Woodpecker with the first lot of birds, I ought to have sent it with the Empidonax but forgot. Sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Brooks - Allen.
April 23rd. 1895

Chilliwack B.C.
15th June 95

William Brewster Esq

Dear Sir.

I asked my Father some time ago to send you the small billed Gray Empidonax, and expect you will have received it before this.

I do not think it is wrightii as I have taken this specie here & would have seen the resemblance, I dont think it has the outer web of outside rectrices white, which as well as I remember is the distinctive feature of wrightii.

I never saw a poorer spring for birds than the one just past, the only good thing I got was a small black Buteo, swainsoni I expect. I have seen this on migration several years but could never get a specimen before. I never saw any but the melanistic phase here, I once saw a flock of some hundreds, all black or nearly so. The eye too is very small much smaller than a melanistic bird my Father shot in Ontario & lacked the fulvous bases to the breast feathers that the Ont. bird had. I had to use a rifle to get it as it only alighted on the summits of the highest Douglas firs & no shot gun will kill a bird on the top of one of them with any certainty. The bullet destroyed the sexual organs but it must be a B.

Yesterday I had a Yellow headed blackbird brought to me. the second I have seen in B.C.

I had a trip to the mountains in May & made a few interesting observations, but did hardly any collecting.

I noticed Arctic Bluebirds paired & apparently nesting May 24th. This is very far west for them to breed.

I also noticed Townsends Solitaire in pairs at the same place & time, Summit Lake, Alt. about 2500 ft, Cascade Mts 49th Par.

I took the nest of Hesperocichla nævia which is a common breeder there, it contained only two eggs. very like an English Song thrushes, but the spots umber brown instead of black & more elongated; is this a good find or has the nest been often taken before.

If you collect Eggs I can get you some. I intend to go after Black Swifts' very soon, I took an almost perfect egg out of a f bird: it was an almost perfect oval 1.03" x .66".

Branta Canadensis breeds at Summit Lake is not this rather far South for this Coast?

I have got you some Geese, but not many, I will complete the series next fall, B. nigricans I failed to procure it is the scarcest of the Geese.

I have found a great difference in the eggs of the 2 Crows found here C. a. hesperus, & C. caurinus, the former is a third larger than the latter: caurinus does not build a covered nest like a magpies' as I have seen somewhere stated, I think on the authority of J.K. Lord, I took nests from the identical trees he did too.

Hoping to hear from you now & then

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Brooks – Allan
June 16. 1896.

Brooks-Allan.
March 7th. 1896

Chilliwack B C.
7 March 96

William Brewster, Esq.
Dear Sir.

Yours of 1st March to hand.

I was very much pleased to see that you recognized the resemblence to Exilipes in the light colored Redpoll. I sent it through my Father who looked on it as only a light colored linaria, not taking into consideration the color & shape of bill: I looked on it as exactly intermediate and probably a hybrid.

You can have it as well as the Sandwich Sparrows for 25c a skin, I have got a series of Redpolls for you as you requested me last spring about a dozen in all which I will charge you 20c a skin for if you are still willing to take them; they are all very purely & brightly colored.

I also have some other birds for you & will send the whole lot off in 2 or 3 weeks by Express; among them are 2 Syrpaleons which will interest you also some other hawks, Lulls &c.

There were no Waxwings this Winter so was unable to get you any.

As to the drawing of the Redpolls, I would be delighted to undertake it as I think I could do it

justice. As to the price it would depend on size &c. but it would not be more than $4.

I have never sold any drawings so cannot tell if this would be too much, if you think so let me know & I will do it for less.

You will probably know what J. A. Ridgway charges for a plate & will know better than I do what it is worth.

As to the time required, send the birds right away & I will mail the drawing within 4 days of receipt of specimens so you will have it & the skins back within 3 weeks.

Let me know if you want a trifle of background such as Kuelemans puts in his figures in "Birds", or if you would prefer the background dead white.

Some ten years ago when I was a youngster I remember I made a drawing, representing the 6 species of Acanthis on one sheet for my Father, who sent it to Dr. Ridgeway, who said it was the best plate of Redpolls he had seen & ought to be published, but I had a very crude, rough style then, and as well as I remember the sketch it was very poor.

Hoping soon to see the material for this sketch.

Yours very sincerely Allan Brooks

P.S. I have some very bright April linaria, & could use them for this species if you wished.

Brooks-Allan
May 8th, 1896

Chilliwack B.C.
8 May 96

William Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I expressed a box of birds to your address in Cambridge containing the birds of which I enclose a list. I will send some more these in a box I am going to send by freight to Mr. William Barge.

Your offer as to the Redpoll picture was a most generous one and I will do my best to make the picture satisfactory to you. In the box of birds I send a rough sketch of these birds made from memory so as to guide me as to position & grouping. Let me know if the attitudes do would suit, of course on a larger scale; would you prefer have the birds more crowded & overlapping each other? Of course the sketch is only a very rough one and is only intended for a diagram.

I also send a sketch of a pair of teal which I am not at all satisfied with as both attitudes & detail are very faulty. I intended it for a series of duck pictures I am making, but it is so crude and badly drawn that it would only spoil the rest.

I got a correspondent in the north of B.C. to

send me some Redpolls, he sent me three which are all interesting birds, one especially so as it is nearly typical exilipes. if you want any you could send to him as I believe he has quite a sucess he is a very keen naturalist his name and address is as follows

Sidney Williams
Queenelle P.O. B.C.

I will send you these 3 Redpolls thro my Father who will like to see them.

I can make you the picture of the Redpolls whenever you want as I will be here off & on for the best part of a year yet.

I have put the birds down at low figures as I hope you will be able to take them all

Very sincerely yours
Allan Brooks

2	Branta hutchinsi @ 1.50	3.00
1	Larus californicus ad.	1.25
1	" brachyrhynchus "	1.25
1	" " jnv	50
1	Anas cyanoptera	1.00
1	Dend. c. fuliginosus	1.75
2	Bonasa u. sabini 60	1.20
1	" u. togata ♂	80
1	" " " ♀	60
1	Falco r. gyrfalco ad	8.00
1	" " " jnv?	7.00
1	Ac. atricapillus ad	2.00
1	" " jnv gratis	
1	Arch. lagopus?	1.50
1	Buteo swainsoni	1.50
1	" Calurus	75
1	Syrnium occidentale	1.60
1	Speotyto cunicularia	40
1	Surnia u. caparach	1.50
1	Scops saturatus	1.00
1	Glauc. gnoma	1.00
1	Nyctale acadica	40
1	Falco s. deserticola	35
1	Acc. velox	25
1	Gallinago delicata	20
1	Totanus solitarius	25
1	Eremetes occidentalis	30
1	" pusillus	30
1	Tringa minutilla	10
1	Rallus virginianus	35
1	" "	20
		40.30

1	Bonasa pul	35
1	Ac. velox "	35
2	Larus borealis 50	1.00
4	" " @ 80	1.20
1	" "	20
1	Otoc. leucolaema	10
1	Cinclus mexicana	25
2	Myadestes townsendi	50
6	Agelaius p. sonoriensis @ 25	1.50
4	Picus harrisi @ 30	1.20
2	" " " 20	40
2	" v. leucomelas? 60	1.20
1	Pieoides a. alascensis	40
1	Zon. querula	40
1	" coronata	15
1	Passerella unalaschensis	15
1	Tridus nanus? jnv	35
2	Ch. vauxii 25	50
2	Pir. s. flamens 25	50
4	Hesp. vespertina $25 / $20	90
2	Tridus propinquus?	25
1	Sialia mexicana	10
1	Dend. audoboni	10
2	Parus rufescens 25	50
1	Sitta canadensis	15
1	Thry. b. spilurus	10
2	Am. alaudinus 10	20
5	" sandwichensis 25	1.25
3	Loxia leucoptera 50	1.50
16	Acanthis linaria 20	3.20
		18.95
		40.30
		59.25

9 4

over

All of these are good skins with the exception of the young Goshawk which is not worth anything & 2 of the Owls. (Western Barred & Burrowing) These I saw in the collection of a local bird stuffer & are the only ones I have seen in this Country. I thought you might like them so got him to take $2.00 for the two, which he seemed to think was ridiculously low for such works of art. Possibly you might get them made over into fairly decent skins.

I have collected all the Shrikes I could as you were very interested in the ones I sent before; I also enclose a small series of Red winged Blackbirds & the Woodpeckers of villosus group which you wanted, these latter seem to grade into one an other. Can you tell me if the Solitary Sandpiper is the Eastern or Western form and what is the distinction? There is one typical Semipalmated Sandpiper which I have sent as its occurrence in B.C is disputed I have taken others but would like your verification of this one. I also send one of Harris' Sparrows I took last winter.

I have been unable to get any Cackling Geese but will get some this fall I hope

Sumas B. C.
13 May 96

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir,

I wrote last in a hurry as I was just starting away on a trip, and I forgot to mention the $7.00 still due you (over plus from last lot) which you can deduct from this.

I saw Harlequin ducks in the mountains last week paired and apparently about to breed they were very tame and I was much interested in watching them ascend the foaming rapids in the river the water flowed right over their backs and they were stretched right out on a line their heads only clear of the foam.

I shot and skinned a small Arctic Tern the other day, do you want it?

Sincerely yours

William Brewster

Brooks – Allan
May 13th. 1896.

Armas B. C.

3 Aug 96

William Brewster Esq

Dear Sir,

Your letter reached me yesterday with enclosed order for $52.25, for which many thanks.

I am glad you took the entire lot I put the prices low for this purpose.

I have a Falcon for you I think a this years' bird F. mexicanus although a ♀ only 19" long. Will send the frame in about a month, also Williams' Redpolls.

I shot another Ex. pusillus yesterday, it is a fairly common migrant here arriving earlier than accidentalis, I have taken 7 in all 6 of which have been in first week of August or last week of July.

Will be glad to hear when you are able as to the mistaken identifications

In haste

Allan Brooks

Brooks – Allan
Aug. 3rd. 1896.

Chilliwack B.C.
21 April 97

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir,

In a box to Mr Bangs I have enclosed 7 Geese for you as I thought it would be cheaper to send such bulky birds by freight, and you could divide the freight between you, they take up about 1/3 of the space so this should be your share. I think you said 4 of each species, if you want more let me know, I will get some more good specimens, I hope, in about a week & will save all the minima & Snow Geese for you, will also make up a few more skins of the others. These seven compriseid,

1	Branta minima	@	3.00
1	" hutchinsi	"	1.75
1	" ?occidentalis		1.00
1	" Canadensis		1.75
1	"	"	1.50
1	"	"	1.25
1	Sn. Goose		.35
			$10.60

say $10.00 for the lot. I have some other birds for you principally Hawks which I will express as soon as I hear from you, also a good series of Leucosticte t. littoralis & 1 or 2 L. tephrocotis Shorelarks (interesting) Ac. oscilipes &c.

Brooks — Allan
April 21. 97.

Let me know how many Leucostictes you want (if any)

I got no waxwings this year never saw one, & only one Swan & that a young bird so did not skin it, I think it was buccinator, would you care for young birds of this species?

I sent through my Father 3 Redpolls from northern B.C. (Cariboo dist.) did you get them? If you still wish for the plate of Redpolls, I can do it right away but after middle of June will be in the Interior.

Mr Demit S. Miller wrote me for a list of breeding birds of Mt Forest, Ontario, he was much surprised at Empidonax traillii & Emp. alnorum breeding in that district. I think I told of this when I sent you the specimens, a pair of each were breeding within 1/4 of a mile of each other, alnorum in a cedar swamp, & traillii in a dry piece of upland brush.

Hoping your health is good

Yours sincerely

Allan Brooks.

Chilliwack B.C.
25 May 97

William Brewster Esq

Dear Sir,

I have sent by Express the following birds.

1	Accipiter atricapillus ad.	2.00	18	Leucosticte @ 50	9.00
2	Archibutes lagopus? @ 1.25	2.50	2	Am. anthinus 35	70
1.	Buteo calurus ad.	75	7	" alaudinus 20	1.40
2	Circus hudsonius ad. 75	1.50	2	Mel. guttata 20	.40
1	Falco mexicanus	1.00	1	Pinicola e. flamea?	25
1	" suckleyi	1.00	1	Lanius borealis	.40
2	Accipiter velox ad 35	.70	2	Otocoris leucolaema 25	.50
1	Surnia caparoch	1.50	1	" strigata?	.40
1	Otus wilsonianus pul.	.35	2	Dend. nigrescens 20	40
2	" brachyotus 35	.70	1	Geo. T. occidentalis	.15
1	Scops saturatus	35	1	Emp. traillii	.25
5	Glaucidium Californicum 1.00	5.00	1	Tach. thallasina	.25
2	Dend. o. fuliginosus 30	.60	1	Turdus analaschkae	.35
1	Totanus solitarius?	25	1	Picus harrisi & leucom.ts	.30
1	Anas cyanoptera	.75	1	" gairdneri	.25
			1	Chord. virginianus	20
		18.95			15.20
					18.95
				Total	$34.15

You can have the lot if you want them for $30.00
I have also put in a Marbled murrelet in first plumage & an Ac. exilipes gratis.

The Rough legs seem to me to be typical lagopus, and might (as far as my recollection goes) have been the originals of two of the figures in Dresser's "Birds of Europe". The brown one, the adult in forground & the light colored one the small figure in the background of the other plate.

I have put in the Hamiers as it seems to me that the adults are rather darker than those of the East, & might constitute a new subspecies.

I have about 3 dozen Leucostacte & can send more if you want them.

In one of your former letters you said you had not a good series of Am alaudinus I send you seven breeding birds taken when the larger species (anthinus & sandwichensis) were still migrating. Alaudinus arrives 3 weeks before the others, the short worn tail seems to me to be an infallible distinction in the Spring, the 2 larger birds always, or nearly always, have the tail composed of newly moulted feathers, alaudinus occasionally shows a new central feather but never the whole.

The dark Shore lark looks very like typical alpestris the other 2 show how distinct lucolaema is, even freshly moulted birds showing no yellow.

Is the Solitary Sandpiper the Eastern or Western form?

Hawks have been very scarce for last few years, I hope to get into a better hawk region this summer.

If you want any more Redpolls from Northern B.C. you might write to Sidney Williams, Quesnelle P.O. B.C. He is an enthusiastic ornithologist and could get you anything you might want from that district.

P.S. Very many thanks for your early payment of $10.00

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks

Brooks-Allen
May 25. 1897.

Vernon, B.C.
26 Sept. 97

My dear Mr Brewster,

I received your letter & P.O. order a week or ten days ago, but have been so pressed for time, and have only time now for a few lines.

I will be glad to hear what you make of some of the doubtful species, especially the Rough legged Buzzards.

I have some more Leucosticotes and will send them with the next lot.

I also have some other birds you will want. My two best takes lately were 2 Arctic Terns taken a week ago, and a Sabines Gull in first plumage on the 8th of this month, I noticed it flying about over the water in company with great numbers of Nighthawks for a day or two before I shot it, it must have been taking the same insects. I took it for Bonapartes Gull but make a point of examining all small Gulls very carefully looking out for Franklins Gull, & the above 2 birds.

You will notice my change of address, Vernon P.O. will be my address for next 6 months or so. In great haste

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks.

Rev

Brooks.—Allan/Sept.26/7

P.S. I intended to drop the C. from my name as second names are useless & clumsy, but I guess I will have to stick to it (or rather it to me) as my relatives insist on addressing me with it.

Okanagan Landing
Vernon B.C.
2 Feb 98

William Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir

I have now on hand two of your desiderata viz Cackling Goose (2) & Northern Waxwings; I can get you as many as you want of these latter & very perfect specimens if you still want them.

Let me know as soon as possible, if you want any & how many.

The Geese are true minima tiny little things the size of Mallards with bills as small as Brant's. I was surprised to get them inland here as I thought they were strictly maritime during migration. I saw others.

I can also send you more Lencosticte t. littoralis, I think you said you could take more.

Can also get here Crossbills, Regulus aurocapillus, Parus gambeli, & septentrionalis, Sitta aculeata & pygmea, Spinus tristis & Redpolls (linaria) all these are wintering here, also Shrikes, Solitaires & Goldcrests rather far North for the last two to winter. Did I tell of the occurrence here of 3 Northern Larids - Ivory & Sabines Gull & Arctic Tern all in Septr & Octr on Okanagan Lake.

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks

Brooks – Allan
Feb. 2. 1898.

Okanagan Landing
B.C.
14 - 3 - 98

My dear Mr Brewster,

Your letter with order for $25. reached me two days ago, many thanks for latter.

I was much astonished at there being insects in the last lot, and in spite of the season I think they must have got in in transit, as I never had a bird in any way affected the whole of last season.

I always poison my birds very thoroughly even opening up the last joint below carpal of the wing & poisoning same in all birds larger than a robin.

I will get you the young & eggs of Hallboel's Grebe & will send you a list of my take at the end of the season, which I do not think will be very considerable as Raptors are very scarce here & I devote nearly all my attention to small mammals & Big game.

Next season '99 I will be down on Vancouver Id & will get many good sea birds.

Hoping you will have better health this season I remain

Yours sincerely
Allan Brooks

Brooks R. Co.
Mar. 14, 1898-

Box 57.

Mount Forest. Ont.
21 March 98

My dear Mr. Brewster,

I got a light box & went through my collection here to fill it, but I could not open all my boxes of packed skins, & could find hardly anything you might want among those I did open. I have put in a few birds to act as filling with the Falcon, but I forget what I have sent you before & am afraid these are not very acceptable, as most of them you have already received from the Chilliwack Dist.

The meadow larks are certainly distinct from neglecta all those found on Vancouver Id. have a totally different voice, & are resident.

I have also inclosed a Coot & a Sora rail as these are species I think that might be distinct sub-specifically.

It seems rather a steep price to put on the Falcon but it is such a purely colored specimen that I think it is really worth it; it will be long before I can get another as good.

I have a very careful drawing of it, suitable for a plate which I can send you for $2.50 if you want it, this is a really carefully drawn & colored & very different from anything I have sent you before. Also one of Prairie Falcon for same price.

If you like I will send you these 2 sketches for examination, I would like you to see some of my work that I have taken pains over, & falcons & hawks are generally made (except by Wolf & Kuelemans) in such outrageously stiff attitudes.

The following is the list & prices, You can have the whole lot for $14.00.

1	Gyrfalcon	10.00
1	Coot	.50
1	Pigeon Guillemotte	1.00
1	Marbled murrelet	.65
1	" " jun.	.30
1	Ac. velox ad	.25
1	Sooty grouse pul.	.50
1	Sora rail	.15
1	Sp. rubes	.25
1	Pleated woodpk.	.25
1	Alaskan 3 toed do	.25
1	Per. obscurus jun	.15
2	Meadow larks (Vand. form)	.30 / .15
1	Black scaup	.50
		$15.00

Hoping these reach you safely

I remain

Faithfully yrs

Allan Brooks.

P.S.

I will write to Mr. Chapman & forward him some of my work, many thanks for his address.

Brooks, Allan
Mar. 21. 98.

Box 57.

Mount Forest
Ontario
9 March '99

William Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have had to return to Ontario in consequence of the fatal illness of my Father who died on the 14th of last month, just a day before I arrived.

I am returning to B.C. in a few weeks I hope, and on looking over my collections here, I see some birds I think you would like, among them a fine adult Gyrfalcon, a lighter bird than any I have sent you, I do not like to part with it as it is a beauty, but I want all the cash I can get together just now.

If you wish I can send you this and a few other birds on approval.

I have also a lot of water color sketches & studies of Big game & birds, chiefly ducks, also Grouse, Woodcock, Etc. These are better than any I have sent you before, would there be any chance of my disposing of them in Boston?

I have had grand opportunities of studying Sheep, Goat, Mule deer Etc in last few years.

I have some birds from interior of B.C. which I will send you on ap. as soon as I return West.

Hoping this finds you at Cambridge & well.

Sincerely yrs
Allan Brooks.

Brooks, Allan C.
Mar. 9, 1899.

Brooks, Allan C.,
Mar. 31, 1899.

Box 57

Mount Forest
Ontario
31 March 99

My dear Mr. Brewster,

Yours of 25th enclosing order for $15.00 reached me yesterday, very many thanks.

I am glad you were pleased with the falcon I take a pride in making up perfect skins of really fine birds, but I so often have to pack these before they are dry, in moving from place to place as I do, that they sometimes get rather out of shape before dry. I have 2 Peregrine Falcons for you in B. C., one a very small light colored bird, ad ♂, of the small ~~th~~ race that breeds in the interior, & the other a large dark ~~adult~~ young ♀. I also have some others you may want, when should I send these? if you will let me know when you return I can send them at once, most likely - Send any birds I will reach Chilliwack where they are about 15 Apr. & will leave there again for a hunting trip about 10 Aug & will return 20 Dec. Between these 2 last dates I will most likely be out of touch with civilization, but hope to have some good birds on my return.

I have sent the 2 Falcon sketches (yesterday),

If you do not want them could you kindly forward to Mr Chapman or anyone else who you might think would take them.

I have made a careful study of Raptors in repose & the attitudes of these 2 sketches I can vouch to be absolutely natural, that of the Gyrfalcon is a typical one of the bird after a meal, though I have exposed rather more of the feet than is generally seen with short legged hawks.

I am making out a short paper just now, embodying the most important ornithological observations, during a period of 10 years in B.C.

Would you care to have this for the "Auk"? If so kindly let me know, & I shall send it either to you or Mr Ridgway in case you are absent.

We have had regular Jany weather here, for last 3 weeks or so, Bluebird came on 10th, but it has been arctic weather since, today is fine & sunshiny, but cold with deep snow on ground.

Address for next 10 days or so to Mt Forest (Box 57).

Very sincerely

Allan Brooks.

P.S.

I have sent a small series of water color sketches to Mr Shields (Editor "Recreation" 19 W. 24th St. N.Y.) to try & dispose of for me, if you had time when next in N.Y. I should like you to see them.

Chilliwack
British Columbia
24-4-99

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your money order in payment for sketches of Falcons reached me a few days ago - many thanks.

I am now sending you by Express a box containing some birds & a few eggs, all of which I hope will prove acceptable to you.

I am also sending for identification 1 Poor-will, which I think is the typical form, (it was nearly blown to pieces but I can send you a good skin if this is not sufficient for identification) & a skin of a Vireo which may be only a young Cassini, but which I thought might be huttoni [Cassini] I have no description of this species by me; if it is huttoni I should like to have it back unless you care for it, the Poor will you can keep.

The adult Peregrine is the small breeding form of the interior & seems to resemble the form named brookei by Sharpe from the Mediteranean, the young bird is the migrating form is it dark enough for pealei?

Do you want any more Blue Grouse of either form richardsoni or fuliginosus? The Franklins Grouse & Rocky Mt. Jay are rather crushed having been packed in my blankets for many days while big game hunting.

Can you kindly give me Mr. Batchelders address? or the address of any mammalogist who would care for skins from this district & the interior: I have especially full series of Insectivora, also many rare Rodentia.

Messrs Miller & Bangs are no longer buying & the Biol. Dept. seems also to be rather quiet just now.

Let me know your wants in Eggs. I have a varied Thrush with blow hole slightly chipped & will have better ones before July if you want the species.

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks.

You can put full reliance on all eggs from my taking being identified beyond the slightest doubt.

All skins & Eggs collected by Allan Brooks

Eggs

4	Colymbus holbolli	4 @ 40.	1.20
A.O.U. No 2	Set mark A. No in clutch 2 Date 3.7.98. Okanagan Lake		
	" " C " " " 2 " 3.7.98. do do		
3	Colymbus auritus	3 @ 20	.60
A.O.U. No 3.	Set mark B. No in clutch 8. Date 19-6-98 Vernon. B.C.		
" 754	Myadestes townsendi	2 @ 1.00	2.00
	No in Clutch 5 Date 27-5-98. Okanagan B.C. 4000 ft.		
	Nest under rock on steeply sloping bank; Very slight		
	composed of grass & weed stalks & lined roughly with finer grass		
	& rootlets. no hair.		
" 466.	Empidonax pusillus	3 @ 20	60.
	Set mark A. No in clutch 3 Date 27-6-98. Vernon B.C.		
	Nest in Rose bush 3½ ft from ground		
5676	Junco shufeldti	3 @ 25	75
	No in Clutch 4. Date 6-5-98 Vernon B.C.		
		Total, Eggs —	$5.15

Skins.

1	Falco anatum	ad ♂	2.75
1	" "	jno ♀	2.00
× 2	Glaucidium g. californicum	@ 1.00	2.00
1	Sp. nuchalis		.35
1	" " × ruber		.50
1	Colaptes cafer jno		.20
× 2	Cyanocitta s. anectens	30 & 40	.70
× 1	Perisoreus c. capitalis		.45
1	" obscurus jno		.35
1	Parus gambeli		.20
1	" a. septentrionalis		.20
× 2	" h. columbianus	1.00 & 1.25	2.25
1	Empidonax wrighti		.30
× 1	" pusillus (with above clutch of 3 eggs)		.30
1	Vireo cassini		.20
× 1	Turdus aonalaskae		.25
× 1	Sialia mexicana		.10
× 1	Certhia a. montana?		.10
1	Ammodramus passerinus (West forms)		.35
2	Am. sandwichensis	@ 15.	.30
× 4	Otocoris merrilli {♂♂ @ 30, ♀ 15 & ♀ @ 25}		1.00
× 2	Ampelis garrula	30 & 50	.80
2	Pinicola e. flamea?	20 & 25	.45
2	Solitary Sandpipers	@ 30	.60
? + 1	Semipalmated "		.30
1	Holbölls Grebe - pul.		1.00
1	Horned "		.35
1	Richardsons Grouse		1.75
2	Sharp tailed "	(columbianus)	2.00
3	Franklins "		3.85
1	Gray ruffed "		.50
			26.45

× 1 Poor will, gratis. nuttalli
1 Vireo huttoni to be identified

5.15
26.45

Total — $31.60

Brooks, A. C.
Apr. 24, 1899.

Chilliwack B. C.
29 July 99.

Dear Mr Brewster,

I received from Mr Dunn $20.00 for the 9 drawings you took, & must thank you very much for paying me more than I asked, I will only be too glad to submit another lot to you should you care to take any more.

I think I acknowledged the receipt of the cash for the skins you took, I have waited a few days until I could acknowledge the arrival of those returned they are now at New Westminster in the Express office there & I can get them soon.

There is no Ex. office here, & were it not that the mailing facilities are good, I would be much bothered.

I have done very little bird collecting this season, the other day I took 2 Pygmy owls just out of nest, quite different from adult dress, ashy gray spotless crowns in sharp contrast to the reddish brown dorsal region; they remind me of some of the South American Glaucidiums.

In great haste Sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Brooks – Allan
July 29. 1899.

Chilliwack B. C.
21 Jan'y 99

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I am sending under seperate cover a few notes on B. C. birds, if you think they are worth publishing in the "Auk" I shall be glad if you will do so; if not please send them Dr. J. Fletcher, Central Exp. Farm, who would like them for the "Proceedings" of their Nat. Hist. Society.

I rec'd a letter a short time ago from Mr. Deane about a few Japanese birds; I remember sending these now from Mr. Forest, & your saying that you did not collect Asiatic birds & would return them.

I have been doing very little collecting in fact there is hardly anything worth bothering about here now except raptors & they are almost entirely absent this year, I have seen a Gyrfalcon several times about Sumas lake but I can neither shoot nor trap him: I may get him yet, shall take a small rifle to him & try & get him at long range. I saw a very dark young bird at a "bird stuffer's" the other day almost dark enough for obsoletus I think I had better buy this & make it up into a skin for you. I have not much else of interest, some young in down of ducks, mergansers, etc, Pygmy Owls in first plumage with ash gray unspotted crown, adult Goshawk etc.

I shall be going up to Southern Cassiar (Northern B. C.) I think

Brooks, Allan
Jan. 21/1900.

next season, but may go to Ft. Churchill (Hudson's Bay) instead – I want to try to go to former locality as I want to complete my list of B.C. mammals & birds & I can pretty nearly do so when I have had a couple of seasons in the great central, partially wooded, plateau of central B.C.

Unfortunately there are so few birds wanted now & I cannot sell mammals at all, that I have hard work to keep in the field, if I were not able to live like an Indian & travel like one I should have had to give it up long ago.

We are having a very mild winter in fact no winter at all with no winter birds except redpolls.

Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Chilliwack B.C.
8 May 1900

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I am deeply indebted to you for all the extras of my paper on B.C. birds, and cannot thank you enough for your kindness.

I have not yet started on my trip to the northward I expect to be gone two or three years & want to have my outfit complete as I can before I start, as when one leaves railroads behind everything is very dear to buy, and one dollar here is as good as three or four up there.

With this end in view I have made some water color drawings for sale and am sending by the same mail as this six of them for your inspection viz

Otocoris a. merrilli ♂ & ♀	$2.25
Western Lark finch ♂	1.25
Group of 4 species of Chickadees	2.50
" " 3 " " Nuthatches	2.25
Baird's Sandpiper	1.75
Semipalmated & Western do.	2.75
	$12.75

Or $11.00 if you take the lot.

If you don't want these send them to anyone you may think of that might take them, Otto Holstein, Jackson Ky. will take the 2 sketches of Sandpipers I think.

If you would care for any others please let me know as soon as you can & I will do them before I leave, as I don't expect to do anything of this sort for next year or two.

Sincerely yrs Allan Brooks

Brooks, Allan,
May 8, 1900.

Chilliwack B. C.
5th June 10

Dear Mr: Brewster,

As I was packing up my skins before starting away I picked out a few I thought you might care for & send them same mail as this.

1 Burrowing Owl (shot west of Cascades by myself) —		1.00
1 Pigmy Owl (young in first plumage)		.50
1 Pintail (young in down)		.60
1 Hooded Merganser do		.50
2 Am. do do	@ 40	.80
1 Holböll's Grebe do		.50
2 Sooty Grouse young	@ 50	1.00
2 Baird's Sandpipers "	25	.50
1 Waxwing in first plumage		.50
1 ? Harris Woodpecker		.30
1 " " juv.		.25
1 Gairdners " do		.30
1 Helminthophaga ? gutturalis		.25
1 " celata		.20
1 Zonotrichia coronata 1st plumage		.15
1 Charadrius dominicus, ♂		.35

Can you tell me if the Orange crowned Warbler is true celata or c. lutescens. I would also like to be sure about the wood peckers; you identified the last "harrisi" I sent as hyloscopus. The young bird sent shows that the ducky tint of lower surface is natural & not acquired, but the adult ♀ sent is pure white below.

Do not return any of these skins, if you do not want them kindly keep them until I am settled down again, as I will have left Chilliwack before your returns could reach me.

Letters to Chilliwack will be forwarded to me & P.O. order on Chilliwack can be cashed all right.

In haste

Yours sincerely

Allan Brooks

Brooks, Allan
June 5, 1900.

Quesnel
Cariboo Dist. B.C.
18 Aug 00.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I have taken an Empidonax here which puzzles me, in notes & habits it is very like E. alnorum, but I have no description of that species with me. This bird has a distinct whitish border to the outer tail feather like E. wrighti, but it plainly is not that species, & I do not think alnorum has this, it also seems whiter on the throat than that species. It is not trailli (= pusillus) the notes are quite different & the coloration purer & more greenish on back & size larger. If not alnorum I should say it was a new species.

Brooks, Allan Aug 18, 1900

Kindly let me know as soon as you can what you think of it.

To fill up the box I have put in a few more skins that I thought would interest you.

Young ♂ 3 Toed Wdpkr with parent, ♂; this shows the young ♂ has the yellow crown. (americanus)

Young of Otocoris leucolaema with ♀ parent.

Nestling of Dipper. & ditto of Pipit.

I came accross great flocks of White winged Crossbills the other day & thought it would be a good chance to get young in first plumage, but strange to say out of hundreds in the flocks there were no young.

nearly all red Js with a few old Js - I send 2 of the former -

I have marked the price on the ticket of each bird, you can have the lot for $6.00 -

I can get you very nice winter birds here if you want them - Pine & Evening Grosbeaks, Common & White winged Crossbills, Acanthis exilipes & linaria, Leucosticte tephrocotis & littoralis (the former breeds I killed several but they always fell down crevasses between the rock & a glacial snow drift) littoralis is the winter form by Mr Williams collection here; Rocky Mt Jays, a species of Blue Jay with a different note from either ameetens or the Coast species, probably typical stelleri; Ravens, Richardson's Owl, White tailed Ptarmigan, Sharp tail Grouse (Northern?) Franklin's & Gray Ruffed do - Picoides Americanus, & tenuirostris, Parus col-umbianus &c.

Prices will be a little higher than for Chilliwack birds, as living is between twice & thrice as much.

Hoping to hear from you soon -

Yrs very sincerely

Allan Brooks

Quesnel, P.O.
B.C.

[9 sent on the pictures to Texas March 20, 1901]

Quesnel B. C.
8 March '01

Dear Mr Brewster,

Have you given up the idea of the plate of the five species of Redpolls? If you have not I hope you will give me the chance to make it, the rough sketch I sent some five years ago was a very poor atempt.

I was lately making some drawings for Mr Otto Holstein, among them one of Ac. linaria, I thought I would make two of these in case you might care for one. The price I charge for these is $2.50.

I send them with the rest of Mr Holstein's pictures to your address in Cambridge, if you want either of the Redpoll pictures take the one you like best of the two & kindly forward the rest to Mr Otto Holstein, 917 Ave. C., San Antonio, Texas.

This has been a very mild winter here & a very poor one for birds, I have not been able to get a single Ac. Exilipes.

I am going into the woods now for two months or so, trapping, shall also keep a good lookout for rests of Rocky Mt Jays, White winged Crossbills &c which should be breeding now. Will send you some skins I have when I return.

Kindly send me a line when you can, I especially want to have your opinion of the large Empidonaces I sent last summer.

Sincerely yrs
Allan Brooks.

Brooks Cellar
Mar. 8, 1901

158 Mile House
Cariboo B.C.
19 Sepr 01

Dear Mr Brewster,

I have packed up a box of skins & eggs and will get it off to you as soon as I can. You will probably not want all of the contents but do not return anything as I will not be settled down again for some time, after you have picked out what you want put the rest by until I write you as to its disposal.

I had promised the only good sets I took of Bohemian Waxwing & Tennessee Warbler to Mr Norris, so had to send them to him; he also wanted the sets of Ringbill & Barrow's Goldeneye but you had asked me for them, if you do not want them, please forward to him (J. P. Norris Jr. 723 Walnut St. Philadelphia).

I have 2 other sets of Waxwings but both are badly damaged as they were all but hatched, one egg was addled in one set & made a good specimen, the other 3 in this set are poor, one has a very large hole, another do. & chipped, & the 4th is cracked. Will send you this set with nest if you care for them.

I have kept one egg out of the Ringbill clutch but can forward it if you do not want the set incomplete. Nearly all the sets of Bufflehead & Barrow's Goldeneye have slightly cracked eggs in them, due to the small apertures of nest holes I think, the egg being

cracked in oviduct; I have not charged for the damaged Bufflehead's in set of 8, & half price for damaged Goldeneye's, if you do not want them do not take it.

I could not shoot the ♀ of the Goldeneye as she did not fly till I was close to the nest hole. I examined her head at 5 feet as she struck it out & it was Barrow's, & I watched the pair for several days before I found the nest, so there can be no doubt about it – I never saw a single Common Goldeneye here – The 2 species are easily distinguished (♂s) even without a glass.

As soon as I took the eggs I went to the lake & shot the ♀ I send, but it is a young bird & not belonging to nest; I was not sure of the nest hole until I had climbed the tree, & as it was a very rotten tree tottering to its fall, I did not like to leave the nest, especially as I was absolutely confident of the species.

The prices of eggs were fixed for me by Mr. Norris as I have sold so few eggs, & prices in catalogues are so unreliable.

The Express from here to Ashcroft (nearest R. R. station) is so high (15c a lb.) I shall wait till I can get a private team going thro', & will pay the carriage to there myself.

The following is a list of specimens sent, all are priced on labels also, when no price is affixed to label the specimen is gratis if you will kindly identify for me, I think there are only two or three, one a small Empidonax & another a Thrush of pallasii group that I am very anxious to get identified by you.

1	Ped. phasianellus ad ♀ (please tell me if typical)	1.50
1	" " juv.	.75
1	" " in down	1.25
1	Bon. umbelloides " "	.75
1	Franklins Grouse juv.	.25
1	Barrows Goldeneye ♂	1.50
1	" " ♀	.75
1	Ringbill ♀ off nest.	1.00
2	Lesser Scaups ♀s " " @ 1.00	2.00
2	Barrows Goldeneyes in down 50 + 1.00	1.50
3	Lesser Scaups " " @ 50	1.50
2	Canvasbacks " " " 50	1.00
1	Ringbill " "	1.00
5	Bufflheads " " " 1.00	5.00
1	" " "	.50
2	Ruddy ducks " " " 50.	1.00
1	Coot in down	.35
2	Hatbills Grebes 80 larger, 60 smaller " 70	1.40
2	Horned " " 50	1.00
2	Greater Yellowlegs " 75	1.50
2	Western Solitary Sandpipers 60 + 35	.95
	Cd. f?	26.45

Brooks, Allan
Sept. 19, 1901

Brought forward		26.45
1 Tennessee Warbler		.25
1 Savana Sparrow (alaudinus large form?)		.25
1 Forbush's "		.25
1 Rocky Mt. Jay juv		.35
1 Cabani's Woodpecker? please identify		.15
1 Sp. unchalis juv		.20

Eggs

1/4	Savanah Sparrow	@ 25	1.00
4/8	Canvas back	" 50	4.00
1/8	Ringbill	" 1.00	8.00
1/7	Barrow's Goldeneye	" 1.00 + 1.50	6.50
7/6 + 3/8	Bufflehead 13	" 1.00 (1 damaged)	13.00
1/9 3/10 4/10	Lesser Scaup 29	" .25	7.25
		Total	$67.65

If you care to take the lot you can have them for $62.00 – I have made the prices as low as I can Expenses are so high in this Northern Country that I cannot make anything at collecting.

Do not send any money till you hear from me again as I am going to move from here. Please address letters to Vernon B.C. they will reach me wherever I am

Hoping these reach you safely & prove satisfactory

Yours very sincerely Allan Brooks.

P.S. I make a sketch of the 7 Bufflehead of set 3/8 sitting on her nest after having secured one would you care for a copy?

Ordered Rec'd 7 4 D 5.00 from 17 N. B.

Sumas
Br. Columbia
28 Mar '03

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I have just taken five good sets of Hesp. naevia would you care for one?

When I took my former nest some seven years ago the egg was still a rare one but I don't know what has happened in the interim.

A dealer offered me $1 per egg for that set which I kept for my own collection.

These are all full sets in good condition. Four have three eggs each & one four, the former is the normal clutch. I will sell these at $3.50 for set of 3 with nest, post paid, & $5 for the set of 4 which is a very handsome one.

Please tell me if you consider these prices reasonable.

Would a note on their nesting be worth writing for the "Auk"?

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks

Brooks, Allan
May 28, 1903.

Sumas B.C.
24th June 03

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I am shipping the set of four eggs of Varied thrush by this mail in a strong box, & of course guarantee safe delivery at the price quoted $5.00.

Will write a short account of the nesting of the specices for the "Auk".

I leave next week for Vancouver I. please address letters Duncan's, B.C.

Kindly make returns by a $5 bill of some well known bank as these pass here & I dont know whether I shall stop at Duncan's.

It would be better to register the letter as it may have to follow me about.

With thanks for this order

Yrs very sincerely
Allan Brooks.

Brooks, Allen,
June 24. 1903

Okanagan Landing
B. C.
5 April '06

Dear Mr. Brewster,

It is a very long time since I have written to you as I have been doing very little collecting.

I have at last taken the eggs of Clarkes Nutcracker, after many years of failure, due to the peculiar habits of the species.

It took me the best part of last month to get two sets, & they have only two eggs each; I waited until incubation had set in.

If you would care for one of these sets I will ship it for $18 with nest, or $20 carriage pd. & safe delivery gauranteed.

If you don't care for a set, do you know of anyone that would? I have written Mr. Norris, have the Smithsonian a set?

In haste Yours sincerely Allan Brooks

Dear Mr. Hornbrook:- Don't you want one of these sets for our museum collection? The eggs are exceedingly rare & we ought to have them represented. I am feeling poor at present & I would take them very. I was called Brooks to hold one of the sets for a few days after getting the letter I have put written him, very bin you will possibly take them W. B.

Okanagan Landing
30 - 4 - 06

Dear Mr. Brewster,

Your letter of 15th reached me a week ago.

The Museum of Comp. Zoölogy sent me an order for the last set of Clark's Nutcracker I had very many thanks for your kind offices.

I had already written to Mr. Thayer, the same time as I wrote you, and he took the other set.

I hope both reach in good condition.

The next time they breed here I hope to get more sets, but it may not be for several years as the bulk migrated Eastwards last winter, and the remnant will probably follow as soon as the young are full grown.

Now as to the Falcons; I have not yet taken the Black merlin East of the Cascades, though I believe it occurs here. I have shot numbers of Columbarius typica here also one or two richardsonii. The Peregrine breeds here, but

very scarcely; the form is not *anatum* the young being very dark, but I doubt if it is *Realei*; is it *nigriceps* (Cassin)?
Mr Bangs has ~~one~~ a young bird from me, of this race; and you have an adult ♂ and a young ♀ I think.
I will try and get more this year and will send you all I get, ~~though~~ and trust to get some more for myself later, as I take a great pride in my series of falcons.
I only got two Gyrfalcons the last two winters I was at the coast, one was adult *islandus*, the other *gyrfalco* juv.
Gyrfalcons migrate coastwise, they do not occur here. Strange to say I have taken far more extralimital Eastern & Prairie species at Chilliwack & Sumas, than I have here.
The weather here is like June, migration in full swing. With many thanks and kind regards to yourself & Mr Deane I remain Yours sincerely Allan Brooks

Brooks_Allen
Apr. 30. 06.

Okanagan Ldg.
B. C
20. 6. 07

Dear Mr. Brewster,

Last year you wrote me asking for Peregrines; I have made a long trip exploring all the cliffs on Okanagan, Dog, Vaseux, & Osoyoos lakes between here and the boundary line, but have only been able to take one set of eggs, with ♂ bird. I also killed a ♀ from another nest and a year old bird.

These birds are not typical anatum, nor are they pealei, the adults are like the Peregrines from the West Coast of Scotland, the young are very dark like pealei, or like big Black merlins. We get on migrations at the coast the ordinary young of anatum with pale edgings to the feathers of mantle. These young birds that are raised on this lake are slaty black

above with narrow cinnamon edgings to the feathers of upper parts, & very heavily streaked below.

The adult males are very like anatum, the females much darker, redder below, with sharp streaks on the feathers of pectoral region as in typical peregrinus.

Are these birds nigricaps of Cassin?

The adult ♀ I have had to make detail drawings of for Dr. Dwight, and he has to have the "sitters" in these cases.

If you want the others I will send you the lot, ♂ ad., ♂ juv., & set of 4 very handsome eggs for $22.00 postpaid.

The ♂ belongs to this set of eggs, the ♀ I had twice under my eyes within 6 ft. as she sat on nest & she was much darker, darker even than the ♀ I am sending to Dr. Dwight. (You might write this to Dr Dwight if you wanted this ♀). Mr Bangs has a young ♂ I sent him 6 years ago of this race, also a drawing of same. Kindly let me know if you want these as I will hold for your refusal

Sincerely yrs Allan Brooks.

Okanagan Landing
B. C.
4 July '07

Dear Mr Brewster

I am sending you by Regd. mail the two falcon skins & four eggs carefully packed.

The male (adult) is the lightest bird I saw out of four pairs, in each case the ♀ was darker above & below. ~~Mr Bangs~~ Mr Dwight has a ♀ ad. The young bird has almost lost the edgings to feathers of mantle, which are cinnamon in fresh plumage; his plumage is also much weathered.

I trust these will reach you safely.

I will remember your request for Blk Merlins next time I am at the Coast. Here the birds range from Columbarius to richardsonii mostly intermediate.

Kindly send the returns for this lot ($22.00) by Express order as the banks here charge a large discount for checks. Sincerely yrs Allan Brooks.

Okanagan Ldg.
B. C.
20 Septr 1907

Wm Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I shipped you the two Salem skins & clutch of eggs ($22.00) as requested 4th July, but up to date have had no word about them.

Faithfully yrs
Allan Brooks.

Okanagan Landing
B. C.
6 Jan 7. 1910

Dear Mr Brewster.

I am making out a list of the birds of Chilliwack and I find a number of skins that should be properly identified are in your collection.

It would be a great boon to me if you could look up the birds I am sending you a list of & let me know as soon as convenient what you

make the species or subspecies to be.

Thanking you in anticipation

I remain

Very sincerely,

Allan Brooks

47156 [illegible] Sumas [illegible] Aug. 26, 95 45683 [illegible]
47156 " argentea " " Feb. 7 96 4568 4 " "
47157 " [illegible] " " " 44730 " [illegible]

Larus occidentalis? Have you a young bird taken by me in Septr. 1889-?

Branta c. occidentalis. Have you any skins of this of my collecting?
3 Sumas [illegible]

Falco rusticolus. What form of Gyrfalcon do you make the three skins You have from me.

Chordeiles. Have you any skins from Sumas or Chilliwack & which form are they?
"C. vic."
47085 Sumas Aug 2, 1896
45597 ♀ Chil Aug. 8, 91
8 ♀ " Sep. 3, 89

Trochilus alleni. Have I sent you this species?
T. [illegible] only 45586 ♀ Chil Apr. 16, 89
[illegible] 6, 89
[illegible] 7, 89

Otocoris strigata. One of the Otocoris I sent you you identified as merrillii. Have I sent any typical strigata?

Corvus sinuatus? I sent the skin of a small Raven taken in Septr. or Octr. Was it this species of principalis? & if sinuatus what was the date?

Pinicola Have you any breeding or migrating birds taken on Cascades or at Sumas by me & if so what subspecies are they.
2 Dec [illegible]
1 [illegible]
1 Mch 19

Pontichia nuttalli. Any skins from Sumas or Chilliwack?
[illegible]
45538 ♂ Chil. Apr. 23, 88
" 39 ♂ " Sept 14 "
" 40 ♀ " May 14, 90
44671 ♂ Chil Mch 2, 90

Passerella. What are the birds I sent labled unalaschensis?
♀ Apr. 29, 95
45544 - Chil. Mch 22, 89
44169 ♂ Chil Mch 18, 89

Dendroica aestiva - Have you any skins from Chilliwack or Sumas ♂ are they rubiginosa?
Do you believe in this subspecies?

45-4 90 ♀
Chilliwack June 2, 07

Wilsonia p. pileolata - Do you believe in the "Golden" form of this bird, & if so which are my Chilliwack specimens you have?

45-3 00 ♂ Chilliwack May 13, 1901
45-5 01 ♀ " May 31

Regulus calendula - Have you any skins of my taking & if so which sub-species are they?

no

Herons - Have you any of my taking & are they herodias or fannini?

no.

Allan Brooks.

Okanagan Landing
3 Feb 10

Dear Mr. Brewster,

Thank you very much for the great trouble you have gone to in identifying my birds, and your report on them is most interesting.

I am especially pleased to see you call the nighthawks virginianus as Ridgway did. That stejneger or something

like it occurs in the Lower Fraser Valley is rather a surprise to me as I had almost given it up — Two I sent to Oberholser were identified as merrillii.

The breeding Otocoris on the Mts at timber line as far south as the 49th Par. on both slopes of Cascades & Selkirks is arcticola.

I hope to take eggs this spring of this form.

Thanking you again for this & other favors,

believe me

Yours sincerely

Allan Brooks.

Okanagan Landing
Vernon B.C.

William Brewster, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your letter reached just as I posted my last to you and I was very glad to hear from you again, though much regretting your ill health which I hope will soon be a thing of the past.

As you are going away so soon I have made haste to send you by express what few things I have on hand which I thought you might want, this season I hope to do considerable bird collecting, I arrived here too late last year to do much in the bird line and so devoted my attention to mammals & later to big game.

I enclose a list of birds & prices; the Lencosticte are all I have left of them and I have reduced the price of them as they are not so good a lot as the ones last sent; I intended at first to grade the waxwings as to quality but as you will probably take all of them I have put them all at 40c which I hope you will consider reasonable, I have picked out old ♂s mostly only 4 ♀s & 2 of these are peculiar one on account of its buffy upper tail coverts & the other as it shows the V shaped markings on primaries supposed to be peculiar to ♂s, it is probably a very old bird.

Brooks-Allan

1897?

This is a poor place for Raptors, I have only seen 2 large falcons, both light colored Peregrines, I hoped to find *mexicana* breeding here also Merlins but have been disappointed so far. The Burrowing Owl is a scarce resident here; the Pygmy Owl I suppose is the interior form but I see very little difference from Coast birds.

I also send 2 species of Nuthatches which I did not get at other side of Cascades, also a pair of Golden plovers, Rhoads calls this variety *fulvus*, but I think it is only a dark form of *dominicus* as the measurements of legs coincide with this latter form.

I am puzzled about the *Ammodramus*; there is no doubt that any birds I labeled as breeding, were so, in the flesh the two birds look very different, and I could easily tell them as soon as they rose from the long grass; The one I call *alaudinus* arrives early in March & is even then worn & gray, with an abraded tail, while the bulk of the larger species pass through two months later *when alaudinus has* young, & they (*Sandwichensis*) look freshly moulted, in fact they seem to have an extra moult to *alaudinus*, could this be possible?

I wish you could see the two birds alive yourself. I am sending you a couple of from here

which I take to be sandwichensis, I have not seen the bird I take for alaudinus here yet.

Sumas is the next municipality to Chilliwack, there is a fine prairie there with a big shallow lake (Sumas Lake) about 8 miles wide at low water, 1/2 inches to 4 feet deep in winter according to rainfall, I have seen it for weeks when you could walk the whole 8 miles & not see more than 2 inches of water anywhere, yet at a distance it looked like a fine sheet of water, in Summer it & all the adjacent prairies a under from 6 to 20 feet of water caused by raise of Fraser river; Sumas City, Washington, is on the American side of the prairie.

Okanagan Lake, where I now am, is a great place for Grebes, especially Holboell's, do you care for any of these in full plumage or their eggs or young in down? Many other Northern birds breed here; Goldeneyes, Scoters Northern Waxwings &c.

Has not the Shorelark, I am sending a very long bill? it looks almost like the Asiatic longirostris which I have from Sikhim with no longer bill than this, though birds from further west have much longer bills. Many thanks for the identifications. Very sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

2	Bern. minima	@ 2.50	5.00
1	Western Goshawk		.50
1	Glauc. gnoma		1.00
1	" "		75
1	" g. californicum		1.00
1	Sp. cunic. hypogaea		1.00
1	Ped. pl. columbianus		1.00
16	Waxwings	@ 40	6.40
11	Leucostictes	@ 35	3.85
* 4	Crossbills	@ 25	1.00
1	Spinus tristis		35
1	Otocoris merrilli		35
1	Cowbird		25
1	Passerelle		20
2	Amo sandwichensis	@ 15	30
3	Sitta aculeata	@ 25	75
2	" pygmaea	@ 30	60
1	Cist. p. paludicola jnr		20
2	Golden plover	@ 40	80
	Total		$ 25.

* Crossbills are apparently laying now! one of these is a young bird of the year which was with a ♀ & on dissection seemed to be breeding. July 97
The Goshawk was shot 50 miles East of this yet is typical of the western form, it was just out of nest.

WBr 106.10.2

*[This is good
Olor columbianus,
W.B.,
Apr. 12, 1899]

Mount Forest
Ontario
5 apr 99

Walter Deane Esq

Dear Sir,

All the birds in the enclosed list were shot & skinned by myself*, as were the 3 heads of Swan & Geese.

1 Meadow lark was collected by A. H. Maynard, & 1 Murrelet (jno) by Sidney Williams all the other birds by myself.

The data of the heads is as follows-

*Aggrous buccinator?		5 Novr '91	Sumas. B.C.	
Beauta hutchinsi	♀	21 Octr 91	"	" "
" minima	♂ ad	20 "	"	" "

I enclosed these as Mr Brewster said he had no Trumpeter Swan in his collection & I think this is one in spite of its yellow patch on bill; and the last species is a typical head of an adult showing traces of white on forehead, the head of Hutchins goose is for comparison with it, all are valueless so sent them gratis. All had their bodies spoilt by rifle bullets.

Can you tell me when Mr Brewster will be back?

Address all letters in future to Chilliwack B.C.

Sincerely Allan Brooks.

(over)

I see the Syrpalem is included in the list. This was shot by my father & skinned by self

Brooks, A. C.
Apr. 5, 1899.

P. S. Can you kindly let me know if you recd 2 sketches of Falems last week? If so keep them till Mr Brewster returns

A. B—

Chilliwack B.C.
17 June 99

Walter Deane Esq,
Dear Sir,

I recd word of the safe arrival of box some 4 weeks ago, you said Mr Brewster would be home in a few days to attend to the skins, but as I have recd no letter am afraid it must have gone astray.

On looking over the record I kept of the shipment I see I put prices rather too high on several skins also on Eggs of Solitaire; to bring them nearer right level, I will put the whole lot at $30.00 & will return the other $2.65 if payment has already been sent me for whole.

I am having sent to Mr Brewster some more water color sketches

these I cannot sell in New York, & I have mislaid Mr Chapmans address, whom he advised me to send them to - Kindly put these by till Mr Brusters return & if he does not want any himself, ask him to send them to Mr Chapman or any one else he thinks might want them -

As I cannot sell them for prices on back of each sketch, I shall be much obliged if you can change to the figures I now enclose as I want to get them off my hands at any price -

Faithfully yrs

Allan Brooks

Brooks Allan
June 17.99.

Price list of sketches
Allan Brooks

No 1	Group of Sheep	$2.00
" 2	Ewe & lamb	2.50
" 4	Mule deer	2.00
" 5 & 6	" " @ 1.25	2.50
" 7	Wood ducks	3.00
" 8	Shovellers	2.00
" 9	Mallard	1.50
" 10	Longtails	1.50
" 11	Bufflehead	1.50
" 12	Bluebills	1.50
" 13	Wigeon	2.00
" 14	Bobwhites	1.75
" 15	Mt Partridge	1.50
" 16	Cal. "	1.25
" 17	Ruffed Grouse	1.75
" 18	Wood cock	1.50
" 19	Dell Tales	.50
" 20	Spotted Sandpiper	.75
		$31.00

Or the lot for $30.00

Brooks-Allan
June 17. 99.

Chilliwack
Br. Columbia
29 May 00

Dear Mr. Deane

Your letter of 19th reached me a few days ago, many thanks to Mr. Brewster for his prompt return for the 2 sketches taken.

I have just found a nest of Western Winter Wren, the full set is not laid yet; if you or Mr. Brewster would like this clutch please quote me your best price per egg which will include nest & photo of site. Let me hear about this as soon as you can.

I can not find the price of even the Eastern Winter Wren quoted in any of my price lists.

The nest is a very hard one to find, & I have great trouble in finding them.

Many thanks for your trouble with the sketches

Very sincerely

Allan Brooks.

Brooks, Allan
May 29, 1900.

Chilliwack B.C.
23 June 08

Dear Mr Deane

Your two cards & letter with order for $7.70 reached me last night very many thanks for your prompt return.

Yes, all the birds sent were shot & skinned by myself; I always make a note on the tag, if the specimen was collected by any other person.

There are 5 eggs (fresh) in the clutch of Western Winter Wren's I have taken this spring; I have nothing to guide me as to the rarity of the egg as I have seen no record of the nesting of the Western Winter Wren, which in my opinion is worthy of full specific rank as the note is different from the Eastern species.

I have packed the nest & eggs very carefully with data & done them up ready for mailing, these I will leave with my brother & if you think they are worth $5.00 I will tell him to send them to you this will include postage & a photo. of the nest with the bird clinging alongside of the entrance hole made from 5 ft. distant.

I start for Cariboo tomorrow, address letters to Quesnelle P.O., Cariboo, B.C.

Sincerely
Allan Brooks.

x[This refers to nos. 48541–48559]

over

The bird is drawn too large in proportion to the nest.
Entrance hole too large.

Brooks, Allan,
June 23, 1900

Quesnelle
Br. Columbia
25 Jany 01

Dear Mr Deane.

I dont know whether I acknowledged the receipt of your letter & P.O. order for the last lot of skins; if I did not please excuse my delay and accept my thanks.

I am very anxious to have Mr Brewster's opinion of the Empidonax sent last summer, the more so as my own collection is inaccessable & I cannot be sure of the minute distinctions between the birds of this difficult genus without the actual comparison of specimens.

I would be very glad to know what you think of the three skins sent taking into consideration the larger size, paler & greener coloration, & light edging to outer retrices as compared with trailli (= pusillus). Would also like you to compare with alnorum, the note as well as I remember is identical with this last species.

I found typical alnorum & trailli both breeding at Mt Forest, Ontario, the former in the swamps & the latter in the upland copses.

This is a very poor winter for birds have got quite a lot of fine Pine Grosbeaks a few Leucostictes, but of Redpolls only linaria.

Hoping to have a line from you when convenient

Yrs very sincerely Allan Brooks.

over

P. S. Can you kindly inform me who is the publisher of the "Auk"? I have been delaying subscribing as I am knocking about so much I was afraid I would loose some copies, but I cannot afford to be without it any longer.

Brooks, Allan.
Jan 25, 1901

Rec'd May 13, 01.

Quesnel B.C.
1 May 01

My dear Mr Deane.

I am sending by this mail 1 box & 2 pkgs. of skins which I thought Mr Brewster might want. I cannot find Mr Brewsters letter which I rec'd last fall, in which he stated the number of Grouse he wanted ("Franklins & Gray Ruffed) I hope I have not sent too many of the former.

The price of the ad. ♂s may seem somewhat high but only about 10% of the "Fool hens" I saw were adults. & it is a hard job to get good skins out, when one has to pack them on ones back over a rough trail, as all these were.

There is an unprotected ♀ of Picoides arcticus which ought to be the Western

from lately described by Mr: Bangs;
I expect to get a good series of them
this next month & will send an
extra ♂ if I do.
The skins would not all go into the
box I make if the Raven & 3 grouse
put up in cotton are injured, do
not pay for them.

1 Corvus principalis	♂		1.50
2 ♂ ad Franklin's Grouse		@ 2.00	4.00
2 ♂ hori "	"	" 1.25	2.50
4 ♀ "	"	" "	5.00
2 ♂ Ruffed	"	" 1.00	2.00
2 Red. Pinicola ♀. alascensis		.60 ♂♂	1.20
2 Gray "	"	" .35 ♂ & ♀	.70
3 Picoides americanus	♂, ♂, ♀	" 1.00	3.00
1 " arcticus	♀	" "	1.00
4 Parus h. columbianus	2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀	.50	2.00
			22.90
Postage			1.26
			$24.16.

If Mr: Brewster takes all, do not pay
the postage.
It has been a very poor winter

for winter birds, no Crossbills or very few Redpolls, Grosbeaks, Longspurs etc.

Before the end of the week I shall be down near 150 mile House some 50 miles S of here (La Hache valley) & expect to make a good haul of eggs there.

I think Mr. Brewster is right as to the Empidonaxes being nearly if not quite identical with alnorum, did he note the white edging to outer rectrices? I forget whether this is characteristic of alnorum. It is a very difficult group but I am sure alnorum is specifically distinct from traillii, if it were only a subspecies the notes would be identical. I have had good chances to observe both (at Mr. Freed, Ont. they both breed) & the notes &

character of country they frequent are both different.

E. flaviventris & difficilis have precisely parallel affinities & they are just as distinct as these two species.

Address letters to

150 Mile House

Cariboo - B.C.

though I cannot be sure whether I shall stay there until I see the country, but will have to pass thro' there & my letters can be forwarded as it is the central point for that district.

Hoping Mr. Brewster is enjoying better health,

I remain

Yrs very sincerely

Allan Brooks.

Many thanks for 2.50 duly recd for Redpoll sketch -

Brooks, Allan
May 1, 1901

P.S. Kindly let me know of any collectors who want to W. eggs.

Brooks, Allan
May 25, 1901

150 Mile House
Cariboo B.C.
25 May '01

My dear Mr Deane

Yours just reached me to-night and I am writing at once as I want to know if Mr Brewster wants any of the eggs I can get here. Many ducks breed so far I have of good ones only found several nests of Canvas back & Bufflehead — Barrows Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Wht. w. do, Lesser Scaup, Ringbill, Ruddy duck, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveller, Green & Blue-winged teal, I shall probably get all of these tho' the scoters may go further North.

The Bufflehead's have their nests in the old nest holes of Red-shafted Flickers — I have just cut out my 3d nest & the ♀ wont move off so I am going tomorrow to try & get a photo of her, as she looks very pretty snuggled down in her fluff of white down. Canvas backs build just like Coots, but I find it hard to get a good clutch with down as the crows are always robbing the nests — I lost one set of 6 this way which I left to be completed & blanketed as duck's setts are always best with the down. Of other water fowl I see Loons, Holbölls & Horned Grebes, Bitterns, Coots, Lora

P.S. All the birds collected from 1 Sept to May 01 were collected within 50 miles of Quesnel B.C. Carilos detailed.

& Virginia Rails, Snipe, & Greater Yellowlegs.
I have spent many a day after the nests of the latter but they breed in among the timber well away from the water - The 5 stays around the nearest lake, & though he makes an awful racket when he see you, still he gives you no idea as to the direction of the nest as he does not follow you - If I get a clutch of their eggs I will have earned them as the only way is to quarter the ground foot by foot this I have done for several days, but the range is so wide I have very little chance - Of other waders I have seen Bartrams (shot), Least, Pectoral, & Solitary Sandpipers but don't think any breed. Of small breeders there are Ruby crest, Dwarf Hermit, Swainson's, & Willow Thrushes, Townsend's Solitaire, Arctic Bluebird, Audobons Orange crowned, Tenesee (common!), & Alaska Yellow Warblers, Grinells Water Thrush, Lincolns, Intermediate, & Sandwich Sparrows, Shufeldts Junco, Rednaped Sapsucker Ruby crest Etc.
Also Sandhill Cranes - no raptors save Kestrils.
It is a grand rolling partially wooded country with lots of lakes, a perfect paradise - How I wish I had a fellow enthusiast!
Northern Sharptailed Grouse are common - I wish to get orders for eggs of all the above especially the Grebes.
Can't quote price as I don't know anything about prices of

eggs - Could you send me a good price list? or quote price of any you want. Sincerely Allan Brooks -

CANADA POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Brooks, Allan
June 4, 1901.

Walter Deane, Esq.
145 Brattle St.
Cambridge
Massachusetts

1st June 01 –

Dear Mr Deane

Your card just recd. I wrote about 2 weeks ago – Yes I shall stop here for next 3 months – Make money order payable at 150 Mile House, Cariboo, B.C.

Sincerely

Allain Brooks –

150 M. Ho.
Cariboo

Brooks, Allan C.
June 10, 1901

158 Mile House
Cariboo Rd, B.C.
23 June 01

My dear Mr. Deane,

Your letter & M.O. just recd and I am glad Mr. Brewster took the entire lot, very many thanks.

The localities on all birds collected after 15 Aug. can be written Quesnelle, some were collected near Willow R. about 40 miles to N.E. All in the district of Cariboo.

I am afraid this will not reach you in time if you close up before end of June.

Many thanks for the addresses & the orders for eggs, can get most of them for Mr. Brewster, except perhaps the Snipe & Surf Scoter. The former must have young now. I made no especial effort to get their eggs as I had taken them before & did not think there would be much demand for them, but have recd several orders for them now.

The Surf Scoters seem all to have gone in the last week, White winged Scoters are still here, both have mated long ago, & anyone seeing their strange courting actions would be sure they bred especially when other ducks, Canvas backs, Mallards, Ruffleheads &c were swimming around them with fleets of young.

I have some pretty good sets of eggs & quite a number of the ducks except Barrow's Goldeneye only one set, only 2

pairs breed here, & none of the common Goldeneye. the nest is a very hard one to find & take as unlike the Bufflehead they breed a long way from the water in big Douglass firs, which are very hard to climb.

I have also taken Canvas back, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruby crest, Tennessee Warbler, Bohemian Waxwing, Lincolns Sparrow (or Forbush's?) Sandwich do. & many other commoner species.

Lesser Scaups are just laying now, Ring bills must have had eggs nearly a week, nearly all other ducks have hatched except Wigeon & Blue Wn^d Teal (& Shoveller). and of course the Scoters have not laid yet & I don't expect them to.

Expect to get the eggs of Ring bill this week, but they are a rather scarce duck here & the eggs hard to get. All the ducks (except Bufflehead & Goldeneye) seem to breed in swamps a long way from where the males are to be seen. The ♂ Bufflehead however does sentry go in the lake, just opposite to where the nest hole is in some little poplar, & so makes the nest fairly easy to find.

Sincerely yours

Allan Brooks.

Address to 158 or 150 m. ho.

Penticton
Br. Columbia
27 Nov. 01

Dear Mr. Deane

I am exceedingly glad to hear by yours of 6th that Mr. Brewster was pleased with the last lot of eggs & skins & had decided to take them all.

I am sending by this mail the egg of the Ringbill I kept for my own collection, also a copy of the sketch in my field note book of the Bufflehead setting on the clutch I sent you. I tried hard to photo her & tho' I managed to secure a camera a few feet away with a special lens for short range work, still the sunlight was so bright on the bank of the tree that the dark interior of the hole made simply a black blur on the ground glass, so did not take a picture. These little ducks are absolutely without fear when on their eggs.

Please address letters for the winter to Penticton, B.C.; Express orders payable here are all right – no moneyorder office at P.O. here.

Sincerely yrs
Allan Brooks.

(over)

Brooks, Allan
Nov. 27, 1901

P. S. Lots of Trumpeter Swans here, does Mr: Brewster still want any, and would he consider $10.00 too much for perfect skins? It is such an awful job to make a good skin of these great fat birds, especially in the cramped quarters I am now in.
Can you please deduct a year's subscription to the "Auk" from amount due me & get it sent to me here? I have not the address of the publishers here.

Penticton B. C.
2 Jany 1 '02

Dear Mr Deane

Your note acknowledging the receipt of the Ringbill egg reached me last week.

Many thanks for order for pair of Trumpeter Swans which I will fill as soon as possible;

I have seen 3 species of Swans in B.C., the largest with bill wholly black, next in size has a spot of yellow about the size of a small bean in front of the eye, & the smallest with a lot of yellow at base of bill; I believe I have seen a still smaller one than the last, probably minor or some other straggler from Asia, the cygnets very dark.

I would be very glad if you could tell me of any collectors who wanted eggs of Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Canvasback etc which I want to clear out cheap. Also have a lot of Franklin's Grouse, Gray ruffed do., & Richardson's do. in good skins.

Weather is mild here only winter birds are Pine Grosbeaks, Leucosticetes, & N. Waxwings.

Sincerely yrs
Allan Brooks

Brooks, Allan
Jan. 2, 1902

I rec'd the Auk, many thanks

Okanagan Landing
B. C.
22 March 02

Dear Mr. Deane

Among the eggs I sent to Mr. Brewster last year were two sets of Bufflehead, one of these had abnormally large eggs which I forgot to measure, would it be asking too much to ask you to send me the measurements of the largest egg in this set? I should also be <u>much</u> obliged for the average measurement of the eggs in the <u>other</u> set which was a very typical set.

I failed to get a good pair of Trumpeter Swans for Mr. Brewster – put it off too long & so was only able to shoot 3, none of which would have made really perfect skins worth $10.00. I have to use a rifle they are so big & they naturally bleed horribly.

My address will be as above for summer – Hoping to hear from you soon yrs sincerely

Allan Brooks

Brooks, Allan
Mar. 22, 1902

Vernon B. C.
23 - 4. '02

Dear Mr. Deane

Your card arrived a few days ago & I don't think I have answered it.

Please address my letters to Vernon & they will be always forwarded to me, make money orders payable at Vernon & they can be always cashed wherever I am.

For the next few months I shall be in the mountains but will make arrangements to have mail forwarded.

Very many thanks for the measurements of eggs. In haste

Yours very sincerely

Allan Brooks

Brooks, Allan
Apr. 23, 1902

Replied June 24
Don't want birds
write the paper.
Send list of birds Cat'g.
W.B.

Okanagan Landing.
B. C.
15th June '02

Dear Mr. Deane

I have just returned from a two months trip into the Mts after bear (got 6) & hasten to acknowledge receipt of your letter a M.O. for 59.00 with many thanks.

Let me know of anything that Mr. Brewster would like from this dist. where I will be for the summer.

Sincerely yours
Allan Brooks Jr.

Would a paper on the breeding birds of Cariboo dist. be acceptable for the "Auk"?

Brooks, Allen
June 15. 1902

Duncan's B.C.
23 July '13

Dear Mr. Deane,

Very many thanks for the prompt payment for the Varied Thrush's eggs, just received.

I sent the skin of the bird with some others to Mr. Bangs, I have no doubt he will let you have it & I will replace it for him as soon as possible.

I have still a couple of sets of Varied Thrush to dispose of both have three eggs which is the normal number.

Sincerely yrs
Allan Brooks.

Brooks, Allan
July 23, 1903

RECEIVED
JUN 4 1904

Brooks, Allan
May 29, 1904

Tzouhalem
Vancouver Id.
29-5-04

Dear Mr. Deane -

You will see I have changed my address again, I now write to ask you to tell Mr. Brewster to let me know as soon as possible if he wants any birds from this district, as I shall be leaving the Coast & returning to Okanagan in a few months. Any Seafowl that occur here I can get now as I intend to collect all summer until October both here (E. coast) & Quatsino Sd (W. coast) where I expect to go in August.

Have just returned from a cruise after Seafowls eggs, saw great numbers - Glaucous Wd, Herring, & California Gulls, Brandts, & Violet Green Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemottes, California do., ~~Horned~~ Tufted Puffins, Marbled Murrelets & Black Oystercatchers but nothing rarer. Only the Murrelets & Black Oystercatchers had started to breed I got two nests of latter & one set of 3 young in down. I think Harlequin ducks must breed on the little rocky islands too.

At Quatsino I hope to get many rarer birds, Shearwaters, Petrels, & other Auklets from those found here.

I find I have let my stock of labels & data blanks run very low, I wish you could get a

dealer to send me a data blank book, like a cheque book with stubs in duplicate, smallest size. Also a few bunches of medium tags about this size .

I haven't got the address of any dealer by me, nor the chance to send a money order as the nearest office is a long way off but, I'll remit as soon as I know the cost.

I'll him to address to me at TZOUHALEM, B. C. & label them "Natural History Supplies" & they won't be held up at Customs.

This is putting you to a good deal of trouble but I know you will do it and thank you in advance.

I found Passerella i. fuliginosa, breeding on the little islands in the Frey this trip, it has a very sweet song.

With kind regards to yourself & Mr. Brewster,

Yours very sincerely

Allan Brooks.

Izoulalem
Duncan's B.C.
19 June 04

Dear Mr Deane

The book & tags & letter just to hand, & I must thank you very much for the very prompt way in which you have obliged me.

I am starting for Bare I. the day after to-morrow & as I was out of both blanks & tags these are especially welcome.

I'll try & get a money order tomorrow, if not will do so on my return inside of a week.

How I wish I could have a companion on these trips! Especially one who had similar interests, I haven't seen an ornithologist for many years; there is absolutely no one who collects in this Province to my knowledge, except the very desultory collecting done for the Victoria Museum by men who know little about birds & care less.

Have been trying to find nests of Anthony's Vireo, & Townsend's Warbler, but no success tho' both are fairly common.

I am very sorry to hear of Mr Brewster's trouble & sincerely hope he will soon be quite well again, with kind regards to him & many thanks to you

very sincerely yrs Allan Brooks.

Brooks Cellar
June 19, 1904.